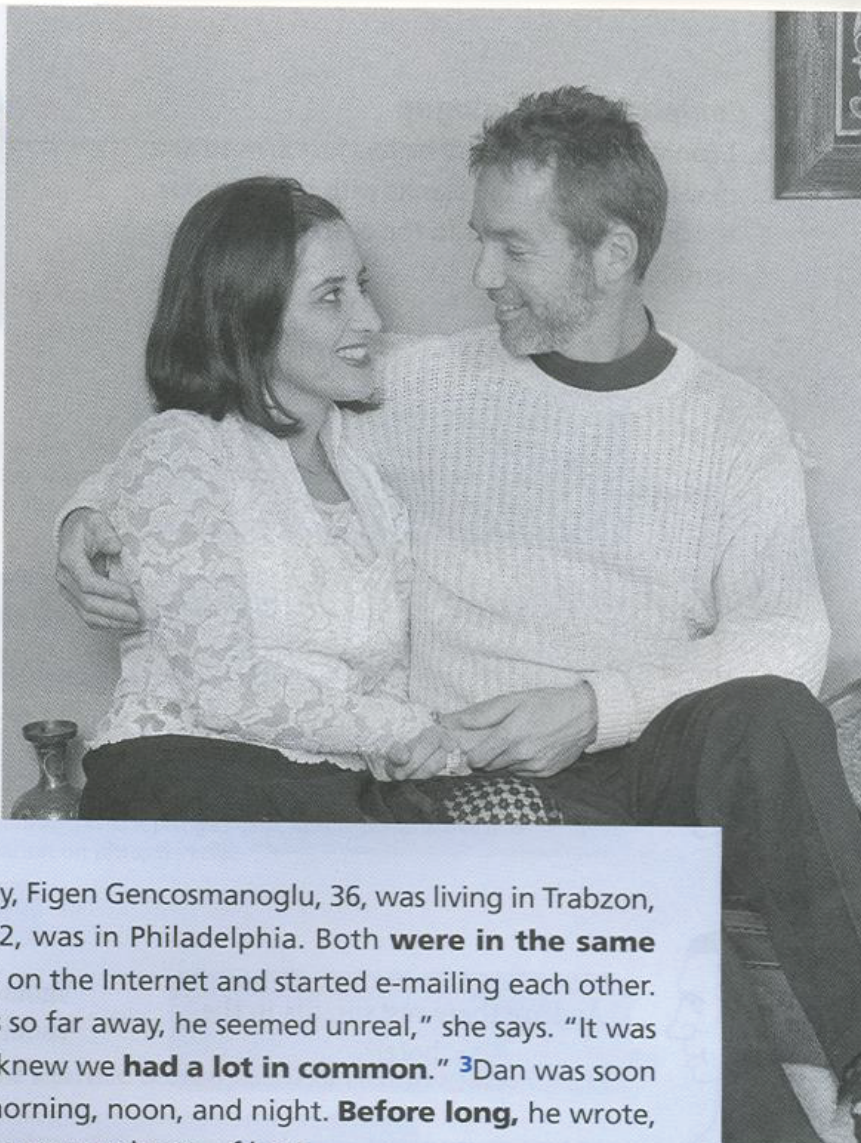


Cyber-Romance Leads to Cross-Cultural Marriage



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 81.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA ¹Until recently, Figen Gencosmanoglu, 36, was living in Trabzon, a small town in Turkey. Dan Haigh, 42, was in Philadelphia. Both **were in the same boat**—divorced and lonely. ²They met on the Internet and started e-mailing each other. Figen told Dan all her secrets. “He was so far away, he seemed unreal,” she says. “It was like talking to an advice column, but I knew we **had a lot in common.**” ³Dan was soon e-mailing Figen three times a day — morning, noon, and night. **Before long**, he wrote, “I’m coming to Turkey.” He hadn’t even seen a picture of her!

⁴Meanwhile, Figen got a photo of Dan in the mail. It **took ages** for her to open the envelope. She put it on her heart and repeated, “Oh, God, please God.” She was already madly in love with him and didn’t want to **be disappointed by** the photo. She was not.

⁵A month later, Dan **made the** long and expensive **trip** to Trabzon, his first trip outside the U.S. He **was nervous about** the meeting. On the plane, his mother’s words echoed in his head. “What are you doing? **Are you nuts?**” In Turkey, Figen **was on edge** too. “Aren’t there any American women for him?” her parents had said. ⁶But when Figen and Dan **set eyes on** each other, they knew it **was the real thing.**

⁷Dan researched Turkish marriage customs, and several months later went back to Turkey with his parents and formally **asked for Figen’s hand.** ⁸“When you meet on the Internet, you begin as friends. You can really listen to the other person. You have time to think about their words and to **read between the lines,**” says Figen, now living happily with Dan near Philadelphia.

echo: repeat a sound again and again

New idioms and expressions

be in the same boat (as someone)	be in the same situation, with the same problem(s)
have a lot in common (with someone)	be similar in many ways (to someone)
before long	in a short time; soon
take ages	take a long time
be disappointed by someone or something	feel that your hopes were not met by someone or something
make a trip	travel someplace
be nervous about something	feel afraid and a little excited about something
be nuts	be crazy, insane
be on edge	be nervous
set eyes on someone or something	see someone or something for the first time
be the real thing	be genuine and authentic
ask for someone's hand	ask for permission to marry someone
read between the lines	guess at something that has not been stated directly

recycled idioms: be madly in love with someone, go back

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Listen and Complete

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Match

Complete the idioms using the words in the box. Then write the number of the matching definition.

boat	edge	eyes on	ages
long	in common	thing	lines

___ a. have a lot _____	1. take a long time
___ b. be in the same _____	2. see for the first time
___ c. read between the _____	3. in a short time; soon
___ d. before _____	4. be nervous
___ e. take _____	5. be similar in many ways
___ f. set _____	6. have the same problems
___ g. be on _____	7. be genuine and authentic
___ h. be the real _____	8. guess at something that has not been stated directly

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 81. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

7. Answer the Questions

About the story

- Why were Figen and Dan in the same boat?
- What did Figen realize soon after she and Dan met on the Internet?
- Why did it take ages for her to look at Dan's photo?
- When Dan made the trip to Trabzon, how did he feel? Why?
- How did Figen feel just before he arrived?
- What happened when they set eyes on each other?
- Why did Dan go back to Turkey later with his parents?
- Why does Figen feel that dating on the Internet is a good thing?

About you

- Have you met interesting people on the Internet?
- Do you have any friends who are in the same boat as Figen and Dan were? Do you have any advice for them?
- How do you know when love is the real thing?
- Tell about a trip you made recently. Were you pleased or disappointed by the trip? Tell why.
- What are you often nervous about? Why?

8. Take a Dictation

Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were making _____ to Chicago when their train was delayed for 10 hours. Before _____, it became hot and uncomfortable. Passengers were hungry and on _____, but there was nothing they could do. Everyone was in the same _____.

- b. The brothers don't have a lot _____. Tim likes sports and the outdoors; Jim likes to stay inside and read.



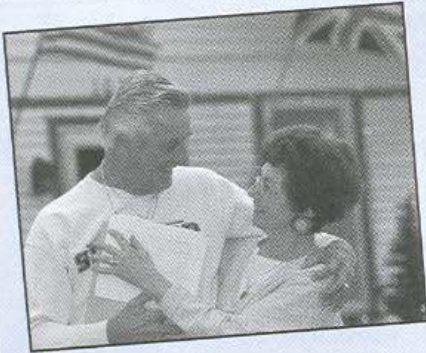
- c. When Polly first set _____ on John, she wasn't at all _____ by what she saw.

12. Complete the Story

- a. Fill in the blanks in this true story with idioms from the box. Put the verbs in the correct form and tense.

- ask for her hand (v)
- take ages (v)
- have a lot in common (v)
- be disappointed (v)
- before long
- be nervous about (v)
- make a trip (v)
- set eyes on (v)
- be in the same boat (v)

56 Years of Correspondence Leads to Happy Ending



Soldiers, IA, USA In 1942, Colleen Lee was 14 years old and living in Iowa. She had a pen-pal from England, Geoffrey Lake, who was also 14. Writing to each other was a school assignment. The teenagers did not (1) _____ . Colleen was an innocent girl who was happy on her father's farm. Geoffrey was **growing up*** in the middle of a war. But the two teens found it easy to write to each other. (2) _____ , they were writing

almost every day. However, when the war ended in 1945, they both got married and stopped writing.

It (3) _____ —almost 40 years—for Geoffrey to start writing to Colleen again. He was happily married, but he wanted to know what had happened to her. When Colleen got his letter, she was delighted, and their correspondence blossomed again. Colleen was married, too, so there was no romance in their letters, only a strong friendship.

In 1992, Colleen's husband died. Then in 1997, Geoffrey's wife died. Now they (4) _____ —widowed, lonely and almost 70 years old.

Their letters became romantic, beginning with "My darling" and "My love." Still, the two had never met. After much persuasion from Geoffrey, Colleen agreed to (5) _____ the meeting because to New York to meet him. Of course, they (6) _____ they didn't want to (7) _____ .

(8) _____ each other, they knew it was the real thing. "It was **love at first sight****. There was no tension or shyness." Geoffrey went down on his knees and (9) _____ . The couple married in 1998 and they are now living happily in Iowa.

"It seems like a fairy tale," Colleen says.

*grow up: become older; reach adulthood
**love at first sight: love that happens when two people first see each other

- b. Read or tell the story to a partner.