

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210526-tinder.html>

The dating app Tinder has launched a new feature designed to help reduce online harassment. The app uses an algorithm to detect potentially abusive content contained in a message created by the user. Artificial intelligence is used to create a database that flags up examples of abusive or inappropriate language. After the author of the message presses 'send', a small box pops up that asks, "Are you sure?" or "AYS?" Developers at Tinder are optimistic the new feature will drastically cut the number of abusive messages sent on the platform. They say that while testing the app, the volume of such messages fell by 10 per cent. The new feature has been rolled out on English and Japanese versions of the app.

The Tinder dating app allows users to anonymously swipe photos and like or dislike the profiles of possible love matches based on photos, biographies and common interests. Once the app deems two users as being "matched", they can exchange messages and arrange a date. While the app has resulted in many finding love, like similar apps, it has been abused. AYS works on the concept of "act in haste, repent at leisure". The company says AYS is its response to keeping Tinder a safe environment. It said: "The early results...show us that intervention done the right way can be really meaningful in changing behaviour and building a community where everyone feels like they can be themselves."

Sources: <https://www.techradar.com/news/tinder-will-alert-users-before-they-send-offensive-messages>
<https://mashable.com/article/tinder-are-you-sure/>
<https://metro.co.uk/2021/05/24/tinder-asks-users-to-think-twice-before-sending-abuse-14623992>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. launched | a. Discover or identify the presence or existence of. |
| 2. harassment | b. Introduce a new product, feature or publication to the public for the first time. |
| 3. algorithm | c. A set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer. |
| 4. detect | d. Hopeful and confident about the future. |
| 5. abusive | e. A particular form of something differing in certain respects from an earlier forms. |
| 6. optimistic | f. Aggressive pressure or bullying. |
| 7. version | g. Extremely offensive and insulting. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8. anonymously | h. Regard or consider in a specified way. |
| 9. swipe | i. The action or process of sorting out other people's affairs. |
| 10. biography | j. Feel or express sincere regret about one's wrongdoing. |
| 11. deem | k. Brief details about someone's life. |
| 12. haste | l. Excessive speed or urgency of movement or action; hurry. |
| 13. repent | m. In a way that prevents a person from being identified by name. |
| 14. intervention | n. Move one's finger(s) across a touchscreen in order to activate a function. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210526-tinder.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Tinder's new app will stop online harassment. **T / F**
2. Tinder's new app uses artificial intelligence to flag up abusive content. **T / F**
3. A message asking the user "Are you sure?" appears in a pop-up box. **T / F**
4. The "Are You Sure?" feature is currently only on the English Tinder. **T / F**
5. Tinder users look at biographies and profiles of other users. **T / F**
6. Once Tinder matches two people, they get each other's phone number. **T / F**
7. Tinder said the app was for people to repent in haste and act in leisure. **T / F**
8. Tinder wants people to be themselves online. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. launched | a. descriptions |
| 2. harassment | b. appears |
| 3. flags up | c. conduct |
| 4. pops up | d. intimidation |
| 5. volume | e. swap |
| 6. profiles | f. started |
| 7. interests | g. hurriedness |
| 8. exchange | h. amount |
| 9. haste | i. highlights |
| 10. behaviour | j. hobbies |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The dating app Tinder has | a. love matches |
| 2. help reduce online | b. repent at leisure |
| 3. detect potentially | c. language |
| 4. of abusive or inappropriate | d. abusive content |
| 5. The new feature has been rolled | e. community |
| 6. profiles of possible | f. launched a new feature |
| 7. they can exchange messages | g. a safe environment |
| 8. act in haste, | h. out |
| 9. its response to keeping Tinder | i. harassment |
| 10. building a | j. and arrange a date |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210526-tinder.html>

1. What does the Tinder app use to help reduce online harassment?
2. What is artificial intelligence used to create?
3. What pops up in the app?
4. How confident are Tinder developers that the feature will work?
5. In what two languages has the new feature been rolled out?
6. What does the app allow users to swipe?
7. What can users exchange once a match has been established?
8. What has the app led to many people finding?
9. What kind of environment does Tinder want to create?
10. What does Tinder want people to feel they can be?

DATING APP DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'dating'?
3. What do you think of dating apps?
4. What are the good and bad things about dating apps?
5. Why is there so much online harassment?
6. Have you ever regretted sending a message online?
7. Is the 'Are You Sure?' button a good idea?
8. What other buttons do apps need?
9. What should happen to people who are abusive online?
10. What advice do you have for people who are abused online?

Dating app asks 'Are you sure?' before hitting send – 26th May, 2021
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

DATING APP DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'app'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Would you use a dating app?
15. What is the best way to find a partner?
16. When was the last time you acted in haste?
17. How has dating changed over the years?
18. What is your idea of a perfect date?
19. What is your idea of a perfect partner?
20. What questions would you like to ask Tinder?