

Reading

1 g

Reading

Aspect: communication

Read the article about ghosting. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each question (1–6). Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

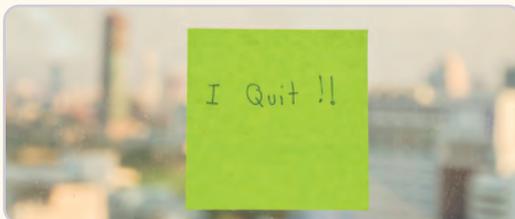
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Why do people ghost?

First, it's just one text that goes unanswered. Then, it's 10. Your calls go to voicemail and the silence grows deeper by the minute. You may start to worry: Could something have happened to your friend? What else could explain their sudden disappearance? Eventually, a social media update or a mutual friend will give you the answer. Your former confidant is alive and well. But they have just vanished from your life. They are ghosting you.



Ghosting, which means cutting off all communication without offering an explanation, has only recently entered the popular lexicon. But it's a behavior that has likely existed as long as human interactions have. The term originated in the context of dating, but nowadays ghosting also occurs in friendships, and is even becoming a noticeable trend in professional relationships: A number of employers said that they had been ghosted, a situation in which a worker stops coming to work without notice and then is impossible to contact, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago noted in December's *Beige Book*, a report tracking employment trends. Ghosting is a strange behavior – why would anyone treat someone that they so recently liked so heartlessly, or leave work without so much as an “I quit” scribbled on a sticky note?



What drives this behavior? Are some people more likely than others to choose ghosting over other strategies to end a relationship? And what's the impact of ghosting on the haunted? Psychologists have only recently started to look into these questions. “There are not many published papers on ghosting,” said Tara Collins, an associate professor of psychology at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. But as research on ghosting begins to emerge, psychologists can also draw on what they know about the psychology of relationships to offer some clues, Collins said.



Ghosting is common and can happen to anyone. A study of 1,300 people, published in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* in 2018, found that about a quarter of the participants had been ghosted by a partner, while one-fifth reported that they had ghosted someone themselves. Ghosting in friendships may be even more common; more than a third of study participants reported that they had ghosted a friend or had been ghosted by one. These figures may be even higher, as another 2018 survey found that 65 percent of participants reported previously ghosting a partner, and 72 percent reported that their partner had ghosted them.

Ending relationships is nothing new, and there are several different strategies people can choose. Perhaps we have just started to notice that ghosting is a common strategy, largely because technology has changed the way we

Test format
Multiple choice
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interact with one another. “I’m guessing that people ignored each other for a long time. It’s just a lot more obvious now because of social media and technology,” Collins told *Live Science*. “When it’s so easy to contact each other, it



becomes very clear when somebody is ignoring you intentionally.”

Ghosting as a strategy may have also gained popularity via new technology, as texting, online dating and social media have changed the way people connect, as well as how romantic partners find each other. Today, people can go on dates with someone they would have never met otherwise, rather than meeting them at a corner store or at their friends’ gatherings. Without a mutual social network tying two strangers together, it’s easier to just drop everything and vanish without any consequences, Collins said.

70

75

80

0 It is likely someone figures out they were ghosted

- A after behaving differently.
- B by disappearing.
- C by going online.
- D without cause.

1 Ghosting was initially just used when talking about

- A family.
- B romance.
- C friendship.
- D painful experiences.

2 A new trend involves employees

- A quitting their jobs in greater numbers.
- B quitting their jobs through social media.
- C leaving despite appearing to be happy.
- D leaving without a way to reach them.

3 For professionals, ghosting is

- A an old concept that was simply renamed.
- B a subject that was mostly a theory.
- C a relatively new area to study.
- D something no one has thought to study.

4 Ghosting is most likely to affect

- A single people.
- B everyone equally.
- C those who are always on social media.
- D married couples.

5 It is predicted that even with worse technology, people had

- A still ghosted each other.
- B been much happier.
- C really only one way to end a relationship.
- D easier ways to tell when they were being ghosted.

6 Ghosting someone becomes easier

- A as people interact with each other less.
- B as communication becomes simpler.
- C as people become pickier about who they date.
- D as people become lazier.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
C						

Listening

2 a

Listening

Track
1 + 2

Aspect: climate activism

You are going to listen to Melati and Isabel Wijsen from the Indonesian island of Bali, who are campaigning to ban plastic bags. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, complete the sentences (1–7) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.



Teens want to ban plastic bags in Bali

0	The only permanent way to solve the plastic problem is ...	waste management
1	The work began when children noticed the ...	
2	The solution to fighting Bali's pollution problem must begin in ...	
3	To show that non-plastic items exist, the group provides ...	
4	Businesses that help the group's goals receive ...	
5	The group wants other children abroad to ...	
6	The group made an international display when it presented on ...	
7	The general population thinks differently about the environment after starting a ...	

Test format
Note form
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Aspect: intercultural matters

Read the text about Black History Month. Some words are missing. Choose the correct word (A–Q) for each gap (1–14). There are two extra words that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Black History Month

Every February, people in the United States celebrate the achievements and history of African Americans as part of Black History Month. In 1915, in response to the (0) ___ of information on the accomplishments of Black people available to the public, historian Carter G. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926, the group declared the second (1) ___ of February as “Negro History Week” to recognize the contributions of African Americans to US history.

This week was (2) ___ because it includes the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist (someone who wanted to end the (3) ___ of enslaving people), and former US President Abraham Lincoln, who (4) ___ the United States during the Civil War, which was primarily fought (5) ___ the enslavement of Black people in the country.

The week-long event officially (6) ___ Black History Month in 1976 under US President Gerald Ford. Black History Month has (7) ___ celebrated in the United States every February since. It was created to (8) ___ attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all (9) ___ of US history, from the enslaved people first (10) ___ over from Africa in the early 17th (11) ___ to African Americans living in the United States today. Among the notable figures often spotlighted during Black History Month are Dr Martin Luther King, who fought for (12) ___ rights for Blacks during the 1950s and 1960s; Thurgood Marshall, the first African American justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967; Mae Jemison, who became the first (13) ___ African American astronaut in 1992; and Barack Obama, who was (14) ___ the first-ever African American President of the United States in 2008.

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|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A became | G equal | M over |
| B been | H female | N periods |
| C brought | I feminine | O practice |
| D century | J focus | P times |
| E chosen | K lack | Q week |
| F elected | L led | |

3 f
Language in use

AE

Supreme Court:
Oberster Gerichtshof

Test format
Banked gap-fill
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0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
K														

Shirley Chisholm
the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress

Thurgood Marshall
the Supreme Court's first African American justice

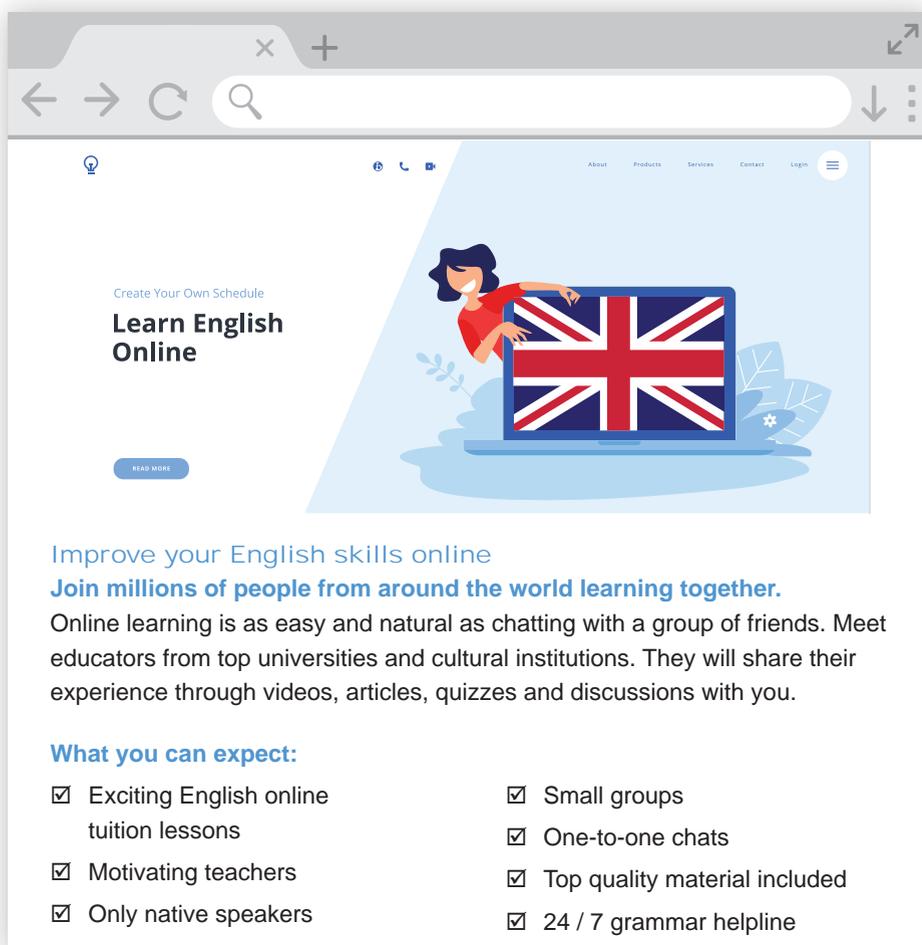
Madam C.J. Walker
an African American entrepreneur recorded as the first female self-made millionaire in America

Frederick Douglass
famous for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings

Phillis Wheatley
considered the first African American author of a published book of poetry

Aspect: education

You did an online English language course at improveenglishonline.com to improve your English skills. Unfortunately, the online course did not meet your expectations. Therefore, you have decided to write an email of complaint to the organisation saying what the problems were.



In your **email of complaint** you should:

- » say who you are and when you attended the online course
- » describe the problems you want to complain about in detail
- » emphasise your dissatisfaction by asking for compensation

Write around **250 words**.

4 n
Writing

Writing reference
Email of complaint
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