

Chapter 9: “East Meets West on Love’s Risky Cyberhighway” from Select Readings (Upper-Intermediate, 2nd Edition) by Linda Lee & Jean Bernard:

## ☐ Chapter Summary

Online romance across cultures

The chapter introduces Alevtina Ivanova, one of thousands of Russian women turning to the Internet to meet Western men .

Motivations and cultural context

Many Western men, like Mr. O'Brien, seek foreign partners due to busy lifestyles and impersonal social environments. He notes,

> “A lot of guys I know work many, many hours and do not have time for a social life,”  
making online matchmaking services appealing .

Risks and challenges

The story explores serious warnings from Russian women about issues they may face: cultural misunderstandings, language barriers, and broken trust when they travel abroad to meet men they’ve only known online. One poignant caution:

> “It takes a lot of trust, and for some women it goes badly wrong.”

It also references tragic cases, such as Anastasia Solovyova, a mail-order bride who was murdered in the U.S. .

## ☐ Chapter Structure & Key Skills

### 1. Pre-reading prompts

Students reflect on online dating, especially across different cultures.

### 2. Reading passage

A narrative blending interviews and case studies of Russian women and Western suitors.

### 3. Comprehension focus

Identify main ideas, scan for specific details (e.g., motivations, cultural tensions), and infer risks.

### 4. Skill emphasis

Recognize cause-and-effect, compare perspectives (Russian women vs. Western men), discuss implications of cross-cultural online relationships

## 5. Follow-up activities

Likely include discussion prompts (“Would you consider an international online romance?”), vocabulary tasks, and writing assignments exploring the pros and cons of cyber matchmaking.

---

## ☐ Key Vocabulary & Concepts

Mail-order bride, matchmaking agency, cultural barrier, trust, risk, impersonal, tragic outcome, cross-cultural relationship.