

To R.P. Salazar, with love.

1 LISTENING You're going to hear a true story, a love story. It starts with a small mistake and two very similar email addresses. Read the extracts from the story and try to put them in the correct order. Then watch and listen to check your ideas.

A And so I forwarded it, I wrote a little message

B And so I got on my knee and asked you to marry me.

C Get to work, first thing I do is turn on my email, and I discovered this one. I didn't know who it was from.

D I would stay up late at night, which was your morning and we would chat.

E I finalized my plans to visit the U.S.

F My co-worker sent you that email by mistake.

G So began a chain of emails.

H They now all tell us, "You're perfect for each other. You found the right match!"



2 Listen again and decide if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE, or if the information is NOT GIVEN.

- 1 Rubin lived in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2 Rubin found out what Rachel looked like by mistake.
- 3 Rubin asked Rachel to come and visit him in the US.
- 4 Rachel kept her travel plans a secret.
- 5 Rubin kept Rachel's visit a secret.
- 6 Rubin proposed after less than a week together.
- 7 Rachel was completely surprised by the proposal.
- 8 Rubin's parents didn't approve at first.

3 DISCUSSION Work in pairs or small groups and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you think it was good luck that Ruben and Rachel met, or was it fate? What is the difference?
- 2 Do you believe that there is one special person for everyone, or are there lots of people we could be happy with?



4a VOCABULARY Look at these different ‘slang’ examples of ‘like’ from the story and match them with the uses. Two examples have the same use.

- 1 And I was **like**, ‘Here’s another R.P. Salazar.’
- 2 It was **like** “Wow, she’s really beautiful.”
- 3 ..we would chat for **like** four or five hours.
- 4 We were, **like**, dancing one night and...

- A A way of introducing direct speech
 B A ‘filler’ or hesitation.
 C A way of emphasizing or drawing attention to something.

b What other uses of ‘like’ do you know? Look at the examples below and explain the use of ‘like’.

- 1 I knew immediately that I **liked** her.
- 2 Ruben found out what Rachel looked **like**
- 3 Would you **like** to go out with me?
- 4 It’s kind of **like** sending a letter in a bottle.

c Find and correct the mistake in each question. Then answer the questions with another student.

- 1 Would you like making a friend from another country?
- 2 Do you like to chatting with friends on the internet?
- 3 What would your ideal partner looks like?
- 4 Do you know any couples who met online likes Ruben and Rachel?

5a GRAMMAR. Which use of ‘would’ means the same as ‘used to’?

*I **would** stay up late at night, which was your morning and we **would** chat for like four or five hours. You’re foolish to go halfway across the world to meet some strange guy you have not met. That **would** be crazy.”*

b What is the difference in use between ‘would’ and ‘used to’ when talking about past habits? Change ‘used to’ for ‘would’ where possible.

- 1 Rachel used to live in Bangkok, but now she lives in Waco.
- 2 Ruben used to wonder if he would ever meet the right girl.
- 3 Rachel used to like receiving emails from Ruben.
- 4 Ruben used to miss Rachel when he wasn’t chatting with her.
- 5 Rachel used to look forward to their daily chats.
- 6 Ruben used to stay up late to talk to Rachel.

6 SPEAKING Tell the story of how you and your partner, or another couple you know, met. Use the following questions to plan your story.

- 1 Where did each person live at the time, what were they doing?
- 2 Did they/you meet by accident or did someone introduce them/you?
- 3 Did they/you like each other straightaway? Why/why not?
- 4 Did everything go smoothly, or were there some problems at first?
- 5 How long have they/you been together now?



Transcript, Key and Notes.

The listening comes from www.storycorps.com, which is a fantastic resource of true stories.

RUBIN: Get to work, first thing I do is turn on my email, and I discovered this one. I didn't know who it was from.

RACHEL: My coworker sent you that email by mistake.

RUBIN: And I was like, Here's another R.P. Salazar. Imagine that. And so I forwarded it, I wrote a little message: "Hi Rachel, it seems as if this message came to me instead of you. I'm in Waco, Texas, U.S.A. Have a great day. P.S. How's the weather there in Bangkok.

RACHEL: I replied to you, "Weather in Bangkok is lovely. Gracias, Rachel."

RUBIN: So began a chain of emails.

RACHEL: The first couple of emails you started describing yourself, and that kind of encouraged me to be open about myself, too.

RUBIN: I was excited that this person is halfway around the world. It's kind of like sending a letter in a bottle. I happened to hover my mouse over your name on one of those emails and a picture of you popped up. It was like "Wow, she's really beautiful. How can I make this picture bigger?" I would stay up late at night, which was your morning and we would chat for like four or five hours.

RACHEL: You had started to play an important role in my life, even before I consciously realized it. I knew that I was falling in love but there's still that tiny little bit of doubt that, this might not work because we're 8,000 miles away from each other. But at some point, I finalized my plans to visit the U.S.

RUBIN: And you didn't tell anyone.

RACHEL: Because everyone would tell me "You're foolish to go halfway across the world to meet some strange guy you have not met. That would be crazy."

RUBIN: And on my end, every relative, every friend, coworker – everyone knew.

RACHEL: We were together for eight days.

RUBIN: We were dancing one night and you mentioned something to the effect that...

RACHEL: I said you were the sweetest guy I've ever met.

RUBIN: I knew right at that moment I need to say or do something so I don't lose her. And so I got on my knee and asked you to marry me.

RACHEL: Deep in my heart, I knew it was coming and it was the right thing, and it was the best thing.

RUBIN: People didn't believe me when I told them I proposed to Rachel. Some of them had second thoughts for me followed by five minutes of laughter.

RACHEL: They now all tell us, "You're perfect for each other. You found the right match!"

1

C Get to work, first thing I do is turn on my email, and I discovered this one. I didn't know who it was from.

F My coworker sent you that email by mistake.

A And so I forwarded it, I wrote a little message

G So began a chain of emails.

D I would stay up late at night, which was your morning and we would chat for like four or five hours.

E I finalized my plans to visit the U.S.

B And so I got on my knee and asked you to marry me.

F They now all tell us, "You're perfect for each other. You found the right match!"

2

1 Rubin lived in Bangkok, Thailand. F (Rachel did)

2 Rubin found out what Rachel looked like by mistake. (True, his mouse hovered over her name and a picture came up)

3 Rubin asked Rachel to come and visit him in the US. NK (It doesn't say)

4 Rachel kept her travel plans a secret. T (she didn't tell anyone n case they thought she was crazy)

5 Rubin kept Rachel's visit a secret. F (Ruben told everyone!)

6 Rubin proposed after less than a week together. F (It was eight days)

7 Rachel was completely surprised by the proposal. F (She says deep in her heart she knew)

8 Rubin's parents didn't approve at first. NK (It doesn't mention his parents- though some people weren't sure it was a good idea)



4a

- 1 And I was **like**, 'Here's another R.P. Salazar.' - a way of introducing direct speech.
- 2 It was **like** "Wow, she's really beautiful." - a way of introducing direct speech
- 3 ..we would chat for **like** four or five hours.- a way of emphasizing or drawing attention (4-5 hours is a long time!)
- 4 We were, **like**, dancing one night and...- a filler of hesitation like 'um', 'er'

These are all very common in spoken English these days, especially amongst younger people. See <http://www.onestopenglish.com/community/your-english/word-grammar/your-english-word-grammar-some-uses-of-like/550265.article> for more examples and explanation.

b

- 1 I knew immediately that I **liked** her- simple past of verb to like
- 2 Ruben found out what Rachel looked **like** – look like, how she looked, her appearance.
- 3 Would you **like** to go out with me?- conditional like- asking if something appeals to you.
- 4 It's kind of **like** sending a letter in a bottle.- similar to.

c

- 1 Would you like **to make** a friend from another country?
- 2 Do you like **chatting/to chat** with friends on the internet?
- 3 What would your ideal partner **look** like?
- 4 Do you know any couples who met online **like** Ruben and Rachel?

5a

*I **would** stay up late at night, which was your morning and we **would** chat for like four or five hours-* this is similar to 'used to', meaning something they did regularly in the past but now don't do anymore.

*You're foolish to go halfway across the world to meet some strange guy you have not met. That **would** be crazy.*"- this is a conditional use of 'would'- if you did that, you would be crazy.

b We can use 'used to' for both past states and past repeated actions that are no longer true. We can only use 'would' to describe past repeated actions that are no longer true (not states). So sentences 1 and 3 have to use 'used to'.

For more information on this grammar point see <http://www.onestopenglish.com/support/ask-the-experts/grammar-questions/grammar-contrasts-1-used-to-and-would/146344.article>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/).