

HEADLINE TEXTER

Do you have a special talent like Dua Lipa? (Page 6)
What do you find the sexiest thing ever? (Page 13)
How did you 'launch' your current relationship? (Page 21)

OFFICIAL UK TOP 40

#1 Great Expectation - Sienna Spiro
#2 Choosin' Texas - Ella Langley
#3 Boston - Stella Lefty
#4 Nicole Kidman - Adela
#5 Training Season - Dua Lipa

BILLBOARD HOT 100

#1 Choosin' Texas - Ella Langley
#2 Boston - Stella Lefty
#3 Been By Now - Morgan Wallen
#4 Hate That I Made You Love Me - Ariana Grande
#5 Dracula - Tame Impala & JENNIE

TIKTOK TRENDING

#1 Uncasually - Bonobo
#2 Neon Nights - Adrian Rover
#3 Late Night Low End - Velvet Smoke
#4 Let Me Be - The Second Voice
#5 Iloveitiloveitiloveit - Bella Kay

NATIONAL DAYS

World Heart Day
National Biscotti Day
National Coffee Day
Confucius Day
National Starbucks Day
International Happy Goose Day
National Silent Movie Day
Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day
International Day of Bids and Proposals
National Compliance Officer Day

BIRTHDAYS

Pop Singer Halsey turns 31
Pop Singer Bella Hunter turns 36
Basketball Player Kevin Durant turns 37
TikTok Star AlyForLife turns 18
Instagram Star Nichlmao turns 24
Roblox Star GoldenGlare turns 32
Movie Actor Nicholas Galitzine turns 31
Pop Singer Choi Yena turns 26
YouTube Star Jesse Ridgway turns 33
YouTube Star Swift turns 25
TV Actor Zachary Levi turns 45
TikTok Star itsjustnicholas turns 20
TV Actress Lilah Pate turns 22
Reality Star Iris Kendall turns 26
TikTok Star Tatum Beck turns 26
Model Lila Moss turns 23

NEW MUSIC

Jet Lag - Tiakola/jorja Smith
 Blink Twice - Rose Gray
 Looking for You - Cara Delevingne
 Magic for a While - Florrie
 Roses - Chvrches
 Movimiento - Cloonee/yandel/atlac
 Who I Am - Marnz Malone
 82 Chevy - Dasha
 Catch 23 - Daphni
 Ghost - Sugarbabes
 Can I // - Star.one/ashley Walters
 Jfk - G-eazy/ty Dolla \$ign
 Jane - Mary in the Junkyard
 Why Why - Blondish
 Fireflies - John Legend/pharrell Williams

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Would you rather never have a Monday meeting or never have a Friday deadline?

THE IMPOSSIBLE QUESTION:

What can you keep after giving it to someone? (ANSWER: Your word)

GUESS THE MOVIE QUOTE

"City of stars." (La La Land, 2016)

OUR STUDY SAYS

A new study says 71% of people have a specific thing they always forget...

- A. One item from a list - ANSWER
- B. A charger
- C. A bag

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE CHART (Domestic Week 38, 2026)

POS	LW	TITLE	WEEKLY GROSS	WIC
1	-	Resident Evil	\$80,176,247	1
2	1	Practical Magic 2	\$16,286,106	2
3	3	Spider-Man: Brand New Day	\$8,580,536	8
4	2	The Odyssey	\$7,963,905	10
5	5	Coyote vs. Acme	\$6,173,975	4

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

That reply you've been drafting in your head all week? Just send it today. Someone else is waiting too, probably for the same reason.



TAURUS

The thing at the back of the cupboard has been patient long enough. Today's the day you finally deal with it, or at least look at it properly.



GEMINI

You'll end up chatting to someone in a queue today and it'll be the best bit of your morning. Let it run on a bit.



CANCER

A song comes on today that takes you right back somewhere nice. Let it, and don't skip it just because you're busy.



LEO

Someone's been meaning to tell you something kind and just hasn't got round to it. Today they will, and you'll enjoy it more than expected.



VIRGO

Your plan for today will go slightly sideways by eleven. Let it — the version that actually happens might be better than the one on paper.



LIBRA

Two small choices sit in front of you today and neither matters as much as you think. Pick either and get on with your afternoon.



SCORPIO

You'll hear something today you weren't meant to. Filing it away quietly is more satisfying than saying anything about it.



SAGITTARIUS

A plan made on the spur of the moment today turns out better than one you'd have spent a week deciding on.



CAPRICORN

That inbox isn't getting any shorter by staring at it. Pick off the easy ones first and the rest will feel less daunting.



AQUARIUS

Your slightly odd idea today is actually the good one. Say it out loud before someone more boring says the obvious thing first.



PISCES

You'll drift off somewhere in your head today, probably during something important. Let yourself have five minutes before anyone notices you've gone.

ON THIS DAY

1957	Buddy Holly and the Crickets release "Oh Boy!"
1959	Little Anthony and the Imperials record "Shimmy Shimmy Ko Ko Bop"
1959	The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis debuts on American television
1960	Ricky Valance's "Tell Laura I Love Her" tops the UK chart
1961	Bob Dylan plays harmonica at his first recording session
1962	Booker T and the MG's "Green Onions" peaks at number three
1962	Alouette 1, Canada's first satellite, launches into orbit
1963	The Rolling Stones begin their first tour, supporting Bo Diddley
1963	The Judy Garland Show debuts on American television
1963	My Favorite Martian debuts on American television
1966	The Chevrolet Camaro is introduced
1967	Gladys Knight and the Pips release "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"
1967	Mickey Hart plays his first gig with the Grateful Dead

SPEED HEADLINES

Alex Warren Asked To Ditch His Wife On The Red Carpet

Dua Lipa Wows With Glass-Balancing Dance At Wedding

Backstreet Boys Set To Plan A Huge Tour Across The UK

Taylor Swift Under Pressure To Share Her Wedding Photos

Oasis Tour Sells Out Amid 'Shambles' Complaints From Fans

Sabrina Carpenter Joins Tom Holland In Fred Astaire Biopic

Shakira's Madrid Concert To Stream Live On Amazon

Harry Styles Gets Support From Future Family In-Law At Show

Gracie Abrams Reveals What She Finds Sexiest Thing Ever

Ella Langley Goes Viral After Fan Asks Her Out On A Date

Jason Derulo Says TikTok Is Now Music's Biggest Gatekeeper

Stella Lefty Parts Ways From Disruptor Management Team

VMA's Viewers Beg MTV To 'Pull The Plug' On The Awards Night

Brad Pitt And Ines De Ramon Loved Up Enjoying Last Day In Madrid

Seat Sliding: The Awkward Commuter Habit Dividing Train Users

New Study Finds Hugs Beat Handshakes For Impressions

Instagram's New Blur Tool Branded 'Humiliating' By Users

Richard Hammond's Welsh Mansion Hits New Renovation Snag

Girl Becomes The Youngest Female Chess Grandmaster

New Study Finds Nearly Half Of US Lack Fun In Life

iPhone 18 Pro Owners Report Freezing And Restart Bugs

North West Hits Theme Park With Friends Like A Normal Teen

Uber Launches Flying Taxis Hitting 200Mph Across Dubai

New Study Finds Doing Karaoke Boosts Your Immune System

Notting Hill's Famous Blue Door House Goes Up For Sale

Johnny Depp Seen Chewing On Plants At Las Vegas Event

Fakehaul Gives Shoppers Their Shopping Fix Without The Bill

ALEX WARREN ASKED TO DITCH HIS WIFE ON THE RED CARPET

Alex Warren had a slightly awkward moment on the red carpet at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The Ordinary singer was posing with his wife Kouvr Annon when a photographer asked for some solo shots instead.

Warren instinctively reached for her arm to keep her close, looking visibly thrown by the request.

Annon handled it gracefully, stepping aside so her husband could get his solo moment.

He then pulled it back together, flashing a grin for the cameras in a black sports coat and tailored trousers.

The pair have been married since 2024.

It has not been the smoothest year for Warren on the big stage.

At his Grammy Awards debut earlier this year, his performance of Ordinary was hit by technical issues when his in-ear monitors failed.

Clearly frustrated, he pulled one of the monitors out mid-performance and later explained what went wrong on social media.

VIDEO

LINK STARTER

Red carpet photos can turn awkward fast, and Alex Warren just found that out live on camera...

THE STORY IN THREE

- A photographer asked for solo shots of Alex Warren at the VMAs
- He grabbed his wife Kouvr Annon's arm before she gracefully stepped aside
- But the singer was left red-faced and the video is going viral

DUA LIPA WOWS WITH GLASS-BALANCING DANCE AT WEDDING

Dua Lipa has been hailed an 'Albanian queen' after showing off her dance moves at her cousin's wedding in Prishtina.

The pop star balanced a glass on her head while dancing with her dad Dukagjin during the reception, three months after her own wedding celebrations in Sicily.

Her cousin And Gjakova tied the knot with bride Rozafa Kelmendi, and Dua shared the moment with her 88 million Instagram followers.

Fans flooded the comments, with one writing 'our Albanian queen', while her dad joked 'I'm still dancing'.

Dua stunned in a feathered black dress with a low back for the big day, having earlier worn a vintage crochet top for family selfies.

She captioned the post revealing her cousin 'married the woman of his dreams', adding in Albanian that 'our circle is growing'.

There was no sign of husband Callum Turner, with Dua instead joined by her mum Anesa, sister Rina and brother Gjin.

The singer has long celebrated her Kosovo Albanian heritage, having been granted Albanian citizenship in 2022 by president Bajram Begaj.

VIDEO

LINK STARTER

If you thought Dua Lipa's own big day was a spectacle, wait until you see her cousin's wedding...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Dua Lipa danced with her dad at her cousin's wedding in Prishtina
- She balanced a glass on her head while showing off traditional Albanian moves
- Fans flooded the comments hailing her an 'Albanian queen'

TEXTER: Do you have a special talent like Dua Lipa?

BACKSTREET BOYS SET TO PLAN A HUGE TOUR ACROSS THE UK

Backstreet Boys are in advanced talks to return to the UK next year for a string of huge shows.

Nick Carter, Howie Dorough, AJ McLean, Brian Littrell and Kevin Richardson are lining up their first UK dates since the 2022 DNA World Tour.

A source said the details are under lock and key, but confirmed one gig will be at London's O2 Arena as part of the venue's 20th anniversary celebrations.

They added the band are on top form and ready to head back out on tour.

It comes as Backstreet Boys launch their Into The Millennium residency, which began at The Sphere in Las Vegas before moving to Dusseldorf, with more Sin City dates in December and January.

The band have sold more than 450,000 tickets for the Dusseldorf run, treating fans to a 26-song set list.

Brian said Germany is where everything clicked for them, adding that coming back for these shows feels full circle.

Backstreet Boys have sold more than 150 million records worldwide and scored 16 UK Top Ten singles, including their 1999 number one I Want It That Way.

LINK STARTER

If you've been waiting years for Backstreet Boys to bring the AAA of pop back to Britain, get ready to start queuing for tickets...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Backstreet Boys in advanced talks for UK shows next year
- One gig will be at London's O2 Arena
- It would be their first UK tour since 2022

TAYLOR SWIFT UNDER PRESSURE TO SHARE HER WEDDING PHOTOS

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce were recently spotted on their first date night as newlyweds, holding hands in Manhattan more than two months after their wedding at Madison Square Garden.

The outing has reignited demands from fans for a proper look inside the ceremony, with one telling the Daily Mail, "I just need to see the wedding dress."

Sources close to the situation claim Swift is holding back because of "negative feedback" over the wedding's scale, which reportedly closed streets and disrupted nearby businesses.

"There was negative feedback to the wedding," one insider said. "It's like she needs some time to pass so the backlash wears off."

Some critics have apparently nicknamed her "Marie Antoinette" over the lavishness of it all.

Travis has been more forthcoming, revealing on his podcast that guests had their phones taken away so everyone could "be in the moment and be present."

He called the night "a very magical, magical night."

Another source insists Swift isn't going to make the photos "transactional" and will share them only when she's ready.

LINK STARTER

If you're still waiting to see what Taylor Swift wore down the aisle, you're not the only one getting impatient...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Fans are demanding wedding pictures from Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce
- Insiders say she's waiting for backlash over the big day to fade
- Travis has spoken about the night, but Taylor's staying silent

OASIS TOUR SELLS OUT AMID 'SHAMBLES' COMPLAINTS FROM FANS

Oasis have confirmed that every date on their Oasis Live '27 tour has sold out.

Fans who registered in advance were given unique codes and placed into one of nine on-sale windows to try to ease the rush.

Plenty still branded the process a "shambles", with tickets starting at £170.50 (\$229) and some fans hitting technical issues on Ticketmaster.

Liam Gallagher marked the sellout on social media, joking that latecomers should just "sneak in" if they missed out.

The band has now urged fans to "remain vigilant" and avoid scam sellers on social media, warning that any tickets bought there "will be fake and invalid".

Oasis confirmed genuine resales will only be available through Ticketmaster and Twickets, at the price originally paid, closer to the dates.

The tour kicks off in Glasgow in May, taking in Manchester, Munich, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Paris, Rome, Boston, Las Vegas and Slane Castle before wrapping up at Knebworth in September.

No further shows will be added, with Oasis confirming this run is final.

LINK STARTER

If you were glued to your phone the other day trying to bag Oasis tickets, you weren't the only one...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Oasis's 2027 tour has now completely sold out
- Fans slammed the ticket process as a "shambles" over prices and site issues
- The band is warning buyers to avoid fake resale tickets ahead of the shows

SABRINA CARPENTER JOINS TOM HOLLAND IN FRED ASTAIRE BIOPIC

Sabrina Carpenter is stepping into one of Hollywood's most iconic dance partnerships, cast as Ginger Rogers opposite Tom Holland's Fred Astaire.

Margaret Qualley is also joining the untitled biopic, playing Adele Astaire, Fred's older sister and his partner on Broadway before Hollywood came calling.

Director Paul King said he could not imagine bringing the story to life "without Tom Holland, Margaret Qualley and Sabrina Carpenter by my side."

King wrote the script with Steven Levenson, based on Kathleen Riley's book "The Astaires: Fred & Adele."

Holland first let the news slip back in December 2021, revealing in an interview that producer Amy Pascal had FaceTimed him about the script while he was in the bath.

He has since started rehearsing the dance numbers, determined to shoot them the way Astaire did, in single takes with no doubles.

"I did my first few rehearsals recently, and it both filled me with excitement and absolute dread," Holland said.

"Because I've got so much work to do to try to do Fred proud."

LINK STARTER

Grab your dancing shoes because Hollywood's about to relive one of the greatest partnerships ever to hit a stage...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Sabrina Carpenter cast as Ginger Rogers in Fred Astaire biopic
- Tom Holland plays Astaire and wants to do his own dancing
- Margaret Qualley joins as Astaire's sister and first dance partner

SHAKIRA'S MADRID CONCERT TO STREAM LIVE ON AMAZON

Shakira is set to livestream one of her Madrid residency shows for fans across the globe.

The concert, part of her Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran World Tour, takes place on 3 October and streams free via Amazon Music, Prime Video and Twitch.

"Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran World Tour has become so much more than I could have ever imagined, and I am so proud of it," Shakira said.

"I'm thrilled to know I can take it even further by sharing this special night with fans around the world, alongside Amazon Music."

The residency marks her return to Spanish stages after eight years, running for 12 shows at Madrid's Iberdrola Music venue.

The livestream forms part of Amazon Music's La Música Nos Conecta series, which this year celebrates women shaping Latin music.

The partnership also includes a new remix of "Dai Dai", a 25th anniversary vinyl edition of Laundry Service, and an AI training scheme for women through Shakira's Pies Descalzos Foundation.

LINK STARTER

If you can't make it to Madrid for the finale of Shakira's world tour, you won't have to miss a single note...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Shakira's Madrid show will be livestreamed worldwide on 3 October
- It's free to watch via Amazon Music, Prime Video and Twitch
- The stream marks her first Spanish shows in eight years

HARRY STYLES GETS SUPPORT FROM FUTURE FAMILY IN-LAW AT SHOW

Zoë Kravitz has been bringing her whole family along to watch her fiancé Harry Styles on his MSG residency.

A video shows Zoë and her mum, Lisa Bonet, dancing together as they sang along to Taste Back, from Styles' album Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally.

At one point Bonet leaned on a railing for a breather while Zoë gently rubbed her back.

Just days later, Zoë brought her dad, rock star Lenny Kravitz, to another show, with the pair matching in all-black outfits as he nodded along to the music beside her.

Lenny previously had lunch with the couple in New York, with a source saying he found Styles "polite, down-to-earth, and genuinely interested in getting to know the family."

Zoë and Styles got engaged in April, after previously fuelling rumours when she was pictured wearing a huge ring.

A source told Page Six the pair are thinking about a small wedding "in the U.K. around Christmastime," in front of family and close friends.

That will need to work around Styles' schedule, with his tour's next leg running from April to August 2027, ending at Wembley Stadium.

VIDEO

LINK STARTER

When your future in-laws show up to watch you do your thing, you hope they're having a good time. Harry Styles didn't have to worry about that the other night...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Zoë Kravitz brought mum Lisa Bonet and dad Lenny Kravitz to see fiancé Harry Styles
- Video shows Zoë and Lisa dancing to Taste Back at his MSG residency
- The couple are reportedly planning a small UK wedding around Christmas

GRACIE ABRAMS REVEALS WHAT SHE FINDS SEXIEST THING EVER

Gracie Abrams has been announced as the face of Chanel's new fragrance, Coco Mademoiselle Crush Absolu.

She said smelling the amber-floral scent made perfect sense with Chanel's history and how the brand wants women to feel.

The singer-songwriter was guest of honour at the launch party, where guests danced amid confetti and had their fortunes read with tarot cards.

Asked what she considers the sexiest thing in the world, Gracie said it comes down to someone's curiosity about whoever they're sitting across from.

"Someone who asks a real question and really wants to know, that's my favourite thing in a person," she explained.

She also took on a crush-themed questionnaire, naming Bless The Telephone as her favourite love song ever.

For dancing alone she picked Dancing On My Own, plus Club To Your Arms by Rose Gray for feeling strong.

Her idea of unexpectedly romantic is something small, like a surprise coffee or a hidden note.

LINK STARTER

If you've ever wondered what actually makes someone irresistible, it turns out looks have got nothing to do with it...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Gracie Abrams named face of new Chanel fragrance
- She reveals what she finds truly sexy in someone
- She also shares her favourite love song and more

TEXTER: What do you find the sexiest thing ever?

ELLA LANGLEY GOES VIRAL AFTER FAN ASKS HER OUT ON A DATE

Ella Langley left one hopeful fan with nothing to show for his efforts after a bold attempt to ask her out.

The country star was chatting with fans through a parking lot fence following a concert in Knoxville, Tennessee, when TikTok influencer Tiki shouted over.

"Ella, how many likes to take you on a date?" he asked, hoping his followers might help his case.

Langley didn't hesitate. "Not enough in the world," she replied, before shaking her head and looking away.

Tiki took the rejection in his stride, turning to the camera to deliver a consolation line borrowed from Wayne Gretzky. "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take," he said.

Langley later jumped into the comments under the viral clip to explain herself. "It was meant to come off as dark humor," she wrote, adding that the silence afterwards left her feeling nervous.

The moment comes as Langley's career continues to soar, with her hit "Choosin' Texas" recently topping the Billboard charts and even overtaking Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You".

VIDEO

LINK STARTER

If you're thinking about shooting your shot with your favourite star, you might want to hear how this one played out first...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Ella Langley shut down a fan's date request through a fence
- He asked how many likes it would take to date her
- Langley later said the brutal reply was meant as dark humour

JASON DERULO SAYS TIKTOK IS NOW MUSIC'S BIGGEST GATEKEEPER

Jason Derulo says the way a song becomes a hit has changed completely since he started out.

He remembers "kissing babies" and shaking hands with radio programmers, even sending Christmas messages to a million people just to get noticed.

"But now programmers are not the gatekeepers," he says.

"The gatekeeper now is really TikTok, you know, and the influencers on TikTok."

He saw that shift play out with his 2020 collaboration "Savage Love," which grew out of a viral dance built around the "Laxed (Siren Beat)."

"It was the people that blew up the song," he says. "It was not an individual, it was not a company."

Derulo insists there's no single formula behind staying relevant for so long, laughing that "it's not the secret, it's my secret."

He's now channelling that same hunger into new music, saying he's been "reinspired and reinvigorated by Afro music" for the next part of his album "The Last Dance."

His new single "Mi Chico" is already nearing 50 million streams on Spotify, proof the fresh sound is landing.

LINK STARTER

Making a huge hit song nowadays is totally different nowadays, and Jason Derulo has revealed exactly why...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Jason Derulo says TikTok has replaced radio as music's real gatekeeper
- His hit Savage Love blew up thanks to a viral TikTok dance
- He's now leaning into Afrobeats for his next album

STELLA LEFTY PARTS WAYS FROM DISRUPTOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Stella Lefty has parted ways with Disruptor Management, the team that guided her from unknown singer-songwriter to one of country music's biggest new names.

Disruptor had been with the "Boston" star since the very start of her career, with Zach Horowitz discovering her online while he was still at college.

The news comes as "Boston" holds on to a second week at number one on Billboard's Country Airplay chart.

That makes Lefty the first solo-billed woman to score a multi-week debut single at the top since Gretchen Wilson's "Redneck Woman" in 2004.

The track also peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot 100, while her debut album Long Way Home reached number 11 on the Billboard 200.

Lefty has faced online criticism over her country credentials and her family's wealth, but she's had big support from Randy Travis and Kelsea Ballerini.

Travis posted on her TikTok after she namechecked him in a new song, writing: "I've always thought you could stand toe to toe with the very best in Nashville."

Lefty has also swapped press teams, moving from Align to Nashville-based Sweet Talk PR.

She heads out on a sold-out tour in November.

LINK STARTER

She's just made country chart history, but behind the scenes it's a different story for Stella Lefty...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Stella Lefty has left Disruptor Management after working with them since day one
- It comes as "Boston" holds at number one on Country Airplay for a second week
- She's also switched PR teams and has a sold-out tour lined up for November

VMAS VIEWERS BEG MTV TO 'PULL THE PLUG' ON THE AWARDS NIGHT

Viewers of the MTV Video Music Awards have urged organisers to "pull the plug" on the show, calling it a shambles.

Hosted by Snoop Dogg at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles, the ceremony was hit by technical issues from the start.

Fans tuning in for the opening instead found an NFL game between the Cowboys and Ravens still playing, with the official VMAs account telling them to hold tight until it finished.

The broadcast eventually started around 20 minutes late, by which point the first award had already been handed out.

Big names including Ariana Grande, Olivia Rodrigo, Lady Gaga and Zara Larsson were all no-shows.

Madonna's comeback performance was branded "utterly unfocused" amid accusations of lip-syncing.

She later appeared to forget what she'd won, asking "what is this for, again?" before Charli XCX reminded her.

Categories including Song of the Year were dropped from the telecast entirely, sparking further backlash

LINK STARTER

Despite it looking glitz and glamour on the night, quite a few people are angry at the MTV VMAs the other night...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Viewers are begging organisers to scrap the VMAs for good
- The show was delayed after an NFL game overran on air
- Big stars skipped it, and Madonna forgot her own award

BRAD PITT AND INES DE RAMON LOVED UP ENJOYING LAST DAY IN MADRID

Brad Pitt was seen holding girlfriend Ines de Ramon's hand as they left Madrid together.

The actor, 62, had been in the Spanish capital for the San Sebastian Film Festival, where he was promoting his new movie Heart of the Beast.

De Ramon, 33, stuck close to his side throughout the trip, right through to their hotel departure.

Pitt kept things casual in a grey T-shirt, dark trousers and a backwards baseball cap, while De Ramon matched his energy in black trousers and a white Gorillaz T-shirt.

The couple later boarded a private jet, with Pitt letting De Ramon climb the airstairs first while he carried a large black bag.

It followed a much dressier appearance days earlier at the film's photocall, where Pitt wore a black three-piece suit and De Ramon stunned in a green lace gown.

The pair have been together for nearly four years, after being introduced by a mutual friend in late 2022.

They've since been spotted everywhere from the Venice Film Festival to Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding, which Pitt called "the wedding of the century."

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

Brad Pitt and Ines De Ramon are quickly becoming Hollywood's favourite couple, and they've been looking loved up in Madrid...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Brad Pitt and girlfriend Ines de Ramon held hands leaving Madrid together
- The actor was promoting his new film at the San Sebastian Festival
- The couple boarded a private jet after several days in Spain

SEAT SLIDING: THE AWKWARD COMMUTER HABIT DIVIDING TRAIN USERS

It's the ultimate silent commute dilemma, an empty seat appears and you have to decide whether to make your move.

Dubbed "seat sliding," it describes the subtle shuffle commuters do the second a better spot opens up across the carriage.

Writer Rosie Mullender, 48, says she usually moves "to give the other person more room," but stays put if she's already settled.

Business owner Tatjana Teapro, 36, admits to sliding away from a smelly commute once, saying "why torture myself for no reason?"

Not everyone agrees though, as journalist Hilary Freeman, 55, says she "never" moves and has even made friends by staying seated.

TikTok users are just as divided, with one commenter declaring themselves "team move as soon as a seat frees up" while another calls it "rude" to shift.

Etiquette expert Rupert Wesson insists the seat slide is "never rude" and often "a most gracious gesture," especially for health reasons.

Fellow expert Laura Windsor agrees, adding it's not the move itself but the manner, warning that "a sigh, a tut, a slightly aggressive shift away" is what actually causes offence.

LINK STARTER

You know the drill: someone gets off the train, a whole empty seat appears, and suddenly you're stuck weighing up a proper etiquette crisis...

THE STORY IN THREE

- A habit called "seat sliding" has sparked a commuter debate
- Etiquette experts say the move is fine, but attitude matters
- TikTok users are split on whether shifting seats is rude

NEW STUDY FINDS HUGS BEAT HANDSHAKES FOR IMPRESSIONS

Meeting someone new usually means a handshake, but a hug might work far better.

Researchers greeted 330 strangers with a hug, a handshake or no touch, then secretly measured how much they were liked.

The trick was asking each person if they wanted to see the researcher's holiday pictures from Serbia.

Among those hugged, 76 per cent said yes to the photos, compared with just 52 per cent of those who weren't.

Professor Karen Dobkins said humans are "evolutionarily programmed to feel safe and secure when we experience human touch."

She said a hug could be ideal for meeting a partner's parents, since a handshake "may just be too formal to build intimacy."

LINK STARTER

Next time you meet someone new, you might want to skip the handshake and go straight in for a hug...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Researchers tested hugs, handshakes and no touch on 330 strangers
- Hugged people were far more likely to want to see holiday photos afterwards
- Experts say it's a simple way to build warmth and connection fast

INSTAGRAM'S NEW BLUR TOOL BRANDED 'HUMILIATING' BY USERS

Instagram has introduced a new editing tool that lets users blur specific people or objects in their Stories using a simple text prompt.

The Pixel effect works by typing exactly who or what you want pixelated, such as "the person on the right", rather than manually covering them with a sticker.

Instagram announced the feature by writing "soft launching? we got you", suggesting it could help people keep new relationships private.

For anyone unfamiliar with the term, a soft launch is when someone hints at a new partner online without confirming anything outright, often through a cropped photo or a stray hand in the corner of a shot.

Users have quickly pointed out a less innocent use for the tool, joking it could let people hide long-term partners entirely.

One commenter wrote that unless it is used as a "whimsical bit", it is "just a humiliation ritual".

Another said bluntly: "If you are going to blur someone then don't post the person in the first place."

Not everyone is against it, with one user pointing out it could be handy for "parents who don't want to share their children".

Instagram has not suggested the feature is intended for hiding partners specifically, and it could prove useful for blurring strangers or protecting people's privacy in busy photos.

Still, anyone who spots themselves mysteriously pixelated in a partner's Story might have a very awkward conversation ahead.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

If you've ever tried to soft launch a new partner online without actually saying anything, Instagram might have just made your life a lot harder...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Instagram has launched a new Pixel blur effect for Stories
- Users can type a prompt to pixelate a specific person in a photo
- Some fear it will be used to hide partners, sparking relationship rows

TEXTER: How did you 'launch' your current relationship?

RICHARD HAMMOND'S WELSH MANSION HITS NEW RENOVATION SNAG

Richard Hammond's renovation of his Grade II-listed Welsh manor has hit another obstacle.

The Trust for Welsh Archaeology has raised concerns that new garage plans could disturb historic remains from the property's old kitchen garden.

Natural Resources Wales has also warned that building work could pollute the nearby River Usk, which is protected under a special area of conservation.

The former Top Gear presenter bought the six-bedroom Georgian home in Llanwenarth, Monmouthshire, for £1.99million (\$2.6million) in March.

His plans include a heritage-style showroom for his car collection, a library, a memorabilia gallery and a padel court in place of the tennis court.

It comes after Hammond's project was already delayed when eight species of bats were discovered living in the property's barn.

He told the BBC at the time: "If I have to share it with the bats, I'll find a way of sharing it with the bats."

Monmouthshire Council must now weigh both the archaeological findings and the river pollution concerns before any building work can begin.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

If you thought your last house move was a nightmare, wait until you hear what's holding up Richard Hammond's dream renovation...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Richard Hammond's Welsh mansion renovation faces fresh trouble
- Archaeologists fear his new garage could disturb historic remains
- A water regulator warns the work could pollute the River Usk

GIRL BECOMES THE YOUNGEST FEMALE CHESS GRANDMASTER

Bodhana Sivanandan has become the youngest woman grandmaster in chess at just 11 years old.

She secured the title at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, after winning eight points across 11 games against some of the world's best players.

The International Chess Federation confirmed her new status after she earned her third and final "norm", the official mark of elite level performance needed to qualify.

The previous record was held jointly by Kateryna Lagno and Hou Yifan, who were both 12 when they achieved it.

Bodhana discovered chess during the pandemic when she found a chessboard in a bag of items left by a family friend at her home in Harrow, north London.

Her dad taught her the basic rules, and she was soon beating him after picking up extra tricks from YouTube tutorials.

She also plays the violin and piano alongside her schoolwork.

Earlier this year she became Britain's youngest-ever Women's Chess Champion, beating a record that had stood since 1939.

Grandmaster Danny Gormally, who commentated on that win, called her "unreal" and "a generational talent".

LINK STARTER

An 11-year-old in north London just became the best female chess player in the world at her age group — and it all started with a chessboard someone left in a bag at her house.

THE STORY IN THREE

- 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan becomes youngest woman chess grandmaster ever
- She earned the title at the Chess Olympiad in Uzbekistan this week
- The achievement breaks the previous record set by players who were twelve

NEW STUDY FINDS NEARLY HALF OF US LACK FUN IN LIFE

A new study has found that almost half of us feel our lives are lacking in fun.

The survey of 5,000 adults found 48% feel this way, while 12% can't recall their last full day off to enjoy themselves.

Half say they wish they could do something fun and social every day, or at least a few times a week.

Those missing out reckon they'd need 17 extra hours a week to make it happen.

The benefits are clear too, with 72% feeling less stressed after fun, and 56% feeling closer to family and friends.

More than half also say having fun costs more than it did a decade ago, blaming shrinking social circles and rising responsibilities.

LINK STARTER

If your idea of a big night out lately is finishing the washing up before nine, you're not alone...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Nearly half say their life is short on fun
- They reckon they need 17 extra hours a week
- Fun cuts stress and brings people closer together

IPHONE 18 PRO OWNERS REPORT FREEZING AND RESTART BUGS

iPhone 18 Pro owners are reporting a couple of annoying bugs just as the phone starts selling.

Some say the screen suddenly stops responding to touch, with one person posting video proof of their thumb swiping uselessly on the display.

The bigger headache seems to be Face ID, which appears to freeze and reboot the phone whenever a scan fails.

One Reddit user said their 18 Pro Max restarted four times within 24 hours, three of those because of Face ID failures.

Of the 24 replies to that post, 22 people said they'd had the exact same problem.

One theory doing the rounds is that the redesigned, smaller Face ID sensor in the Pro models could be behind the glitch.

Apple support reportedly ran diagnostics on one affected device and pinned the issue on a faulty unit rather than the software.

The good news is a fix already appears to be on the way, with iOS 27.0.1 showing up in analytics and expected to sort the Face ID freeze.

LINK STARTER

If you've just splashed out on the shiny new iPhone 18 Pro, you might want to hold off showing it off just yet...

THE STORY IN THREE

- iPhone 18 Pro owners are reporting two separate bugs.
- Face ID failures are apparently freezing and rebooting some handsets.
- A software fix already looks to be on the way.

NORTH WEST HITS THEME PARK WITH FRIENDS LIKE A NORMAL TEEN

North West headed to Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood with her mates, just like any other Los Angeles teenager.

The 13 year old wore her usual all black look, complete with Rick Owens trainers and her signature blue hair worn down.

She didn't have her parents with her, though she did have bodyguards on hand for the outing.

It comes just weeks after North revealed she has some surprisingly normal career plans.

"I still wanna work. I wanna work at, like, Starbucks next year" she said.

She explained she'll be old enough once she turns 14, adding: "I want to have a regular job, I guess."

That's despite already building a music career, having released her debut EP N0rth4evr and performed at Rolling Loud in Orlando alongside rapper Molly Santana.

North said she now rehearses every day to sharpen her skills, both in the studio and on stage.

"This is my hobby, this is what I like to do, this is what I wanna do with my life," she said.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

She might be a Kardashian-West, but this next outing sounds pretty relatable for any teenager...

THE STORY IN THREE

- North West went to Halloween Horror Nights with friends
- It comes weeks after she said she wants a Starbucks job
- She's also been busy with music, dance and festival sets

UBER LAUNCHES FLYING TAXIS HITTING 200MPH ACROSS DUBAI

Uber has been testing electric flying taxis in Dubai, with plans to launch them later this year.

Built with Californian start-up Joby, the aircraft carries four passengers at speeds up to 200mph between city "vertiports".

The 20-mile trip from Dubai Airport to Palm Jumeirah, which can take over an hour by road, would take just 11 minutes.

Fares are expected to match Uber's premium car service, similar to the £40 (\$51) it currently costs for that same airport run.

Test pilot David "Skittles" Ash, a former US fighter pilot, calls it "just a joy to fly", comparing it to a tailored suit.

The six-propeller aircraft lifts off like a helicopter before shifting into forward "cruise mode" at around 80mph.

It runs on four high-voltage batteries for up to 100 miles, and is said to be 100 times quieter than a helicopter.

Uber's Sachin Kansal says commuters lose 93 hours a year to traffic, insisting "you can't just build more roads".

Four vertiports have been picked in Dubai, with Los Angeles, New York and London lined up next, though pilots remain for now.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

If sitting in traffic makes you want to scream into a pillow, this next bit might just change your commute forever...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Uber is testing electric flying taxis in Dubai
- They fly at up to 200mph and cost about the same as a premium car ride
- London, New York and LA are next in line for the service

NEW STUDY FINDS DOING KARAOKE BOOSTS YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

GPs say we're heading into a seasonal "viral spiral" of colds and flu.

Getting under six hours' sleep a night raises your infection risk by at least 25 per cent, so a solid bedtime routine helps.

Singing for at least an hour, even in the car or at karaoke, can boost antibody levels and lower stress.

Short bursts of movement, like squats or a quick walk, keep your immune system's defences flowing.

A fibre rich diet of oats, nuts and vegetables feeds the good bacteria in your gut.

Vitamin D matters just as much as vitamin C, with the NHS recommending a daily ten microgram supplement.

Saline nasal sprays and salt water gargles can shorten a cold by up to 20 per cent.

Keeping your home ventilated and eating zinc rich tinned fish rounds off the doctor's advice.

LINK STARTER

You know that moment in the car when you're absolutely nailing a power ballad and nobody's watching? Turns out it could be helping you avoid getting sick...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Doctors say singing for an hour can boost immunity
- Sleep, movement and diet also play a key role
- Simple daily habits could help beat the "viral spiral"

NOTTING HILL'S FAMOUS BLUE DOOR HOUSE GOES UP FOR SALE

The blue door that Rhys Ifans famously answered in his underpants in Notting Hill is up for grabs.

The converted church behind it, once owned by the film's screenwriter Richard Curtis, is on the market for £7.95million (\$10.6million).

It was last sold in 2014 for £4.575million (\$6.1million) to tech entrepreneur Neil Hutchinson, meaning it's now listed for almost £3.4million more than he paid.

While the flat's interior scenes were actually filmed on a studio set, the exterior became one of the most recognisable doorways in film history.

The real property spans around 3,000 square feet with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a "spectacular" kitchen and dining space stretching almost 48 feet.

There's also a secret roof terrace reached by a spiral staircase, tucked away above the rooftops of Notting Hill.

The original blue door was actually auctioned off by Christie's after the film came out and briefly replaced with a black one, before eventually being repainted blue.

Whoever buys it will have to get used to tourists turning up daily hoping for a Notting Hill moment of their own.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

If you've ever wandered round west London hoping to spot a famous film location, you can now actually OWN one...

THE STORY IN THREE

- The blue-door house from Notting Hill is on the market
- It's listed for £7.95million (\$10.6million)
- The real interior is far grander than the film flat

JOHNNY DEPP SEEN CHEWING ON PLANTS AT LAS VEGAS EVENT

Johnny Depp put on quite a show at DRINK Las Vegas, a food and drink festival spread across several hotels on the Strip.

Footage shows him raising a toast at Park MGM as he threw himself into the weekend's festivities.

When it came time for photos, Depp noticed an artificial hedge behind him and tore off a leaf with his teeth.

He posed with it dangling from his mouth before spitting it out.

Not satisfied, he turned round and bit off an entire stem covered in leaves to really commit to the bit.

Grinning with the greenery still hanging from his lip, he lifted his glass to the cameras.

Depp, 63, kept things boho-chic for the occasion, in a black vest, orange-tinted shades and a cowboy hat.

He wasn't the only famous face at the festival, with Shaquille O'Neal and Sammy Hagar also among the guests.

PHOTO

LINK STARTER

You never quite know what Johnny Depp's going to get up to next when the cameras are rolling...

THE STORY IN THREE

- Johnny Depp posed for photos at a Las Vegas drinks festival.
- He bit leaves off a fake hedge behind him, twice.
- He then raised a glass to photographers with greenery still in his mouth.

FAKEHAUL GIVES SHOPPERS THEIR SHOPPING FIX WITHOUT THE BILL

FakeHaul is a brand new website that looks exactly like an online shopping site, complete with shoes, snacks and gadgets at bargain prices.

The only catch is that none of it is real, and that is completely intentional.

The site lets you fill up a cart, hunt for deals and even "check out", all without spending a single penny.

It was created by Jack Yang, a software developer who works on AI at Microsoft, after watching someone close to him struggle with impulse shopping.

"I noticed the satisfaction mostly happened before the purchase: in the browsing, the comparing, the adding to cart, and the waiting for delivery," he said.

FakeHaul joins a growing list of so-called "dopamine sites", including FoodNeverComes, which fakes a food delivery order, and Dopamine Shop, a spoof of Amazon.

There's even one called No Smoke Zone, designed to curb cigarette cravings instead of online splurges.

As Yang puts it, "FakeHaul runs the whole shopping loop."

LINK STARTER

If online shopping is basically your cardio, there's now a website that lets you get the buzz without touching your bank card...

THE STORY IN THREE

- A new site called FakeHaul mimics online shopping, but nothing is real
- You can browse, add to cart and "check out" for free
- It's part of a growing trend of so-called "dopamine sites"

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