

# What Makes People Vulnerable To Romance Scams?



Although anyone can fall victim to romance scams, certain factors can make you more vulnerable. Do you recognize any factors in your own life or the lives of your loved ones that make you vulnerable to romance scams?

## Romance Scammer look For Our Weaknesses

Romance scams are often linked to international crime, and there is often a large group of people behind them. Some of the people who assist in these crimes are tasked with searching social media platforms and dating services for people whose life situation could be vulnerable and susceptible to romance scams. Here are some factors that make people vulnerable to scams:



### Loneliness

The desire to be part of a meaningful relationship is a basic human need. Scammers know this and exploit the loneliness of people who have recently divorced or been widowed, for example.



### Empathy

The ability to be empathetic is one of the most beautiful things about being human. Unfortunately, cybercriminals exploit people's desire to help by pretending to be in various emergency situations that require financial assistance to overcome.



### Poor Digital Skills

Rapid technological development in society has left older people in particular vulnerable to online scams. Good digital skills are a great help in recognizing romance scams early enough.



### Experience-Seeking

Some of us want to experience new and exciting things in life. A new acquaintance met online who seems fascinating and works in a high position abroad is not necessarily an invitation to adventure, but a reminder of the importance of staying alert.



### Excessive Self-Confidence

Many people think they are skilled enough to recognize online scams. Highly educated people in particular are often overly confident in their abilities, which can backfire if they fail to notice in time that they have fallen victim to a scam.



### Major Life Changes

In times of crisis, such as serious illness, divorce, or unemployment, we seek comfort online. Romance fraudsters send comforting and flattering messages to people who may be susceptible to them.

## Protect Yourself From Romance Scams

The best way to avoid scams is to stay alert and cautious online. Be wary of relationships that develop quickly online, especially if your new acquaintance mentions financial problems. Never send money to someone you haven't met in person, no matter how honest they seem. Also, don't share your personal information, such as passwords or online banking details.

We often want to see the good in people, which can cause us to ignore warning signs. Romance fraudsters take advantage of our goodwill, trust, and vulnerability to gain financial benefit. Recognizing the methods used by cybercriminals and warning signs can help you avoid becoming a victim of romance scams.



More information about romance scams: [nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english](https://nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english)