

Read the text from 2014 about how modern technology can affect splitting-up. Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part (A-J) for each gap (1-7). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

## It's over, or isn't it?

Dating is a lot like science. At the very least, trial and error are an essential part of the process. And the outcome is not always the hoped-for one.

Breakups are in fact inevitable – you imagine a final, decisive moment when two strained sweethearts go their separate ways. They throw out the snapshots and souvenirs, mourn and mope for a while, dig into the ice cream, and sooner or later, resume the search for a suitable mate. The exes never (0) \_\_\_\_\_. Out of sight, eventually out of mind.

But it's 2014, and it's not so easy to erase an ex from your life. The newly decoupled (1) \_\_\_\_ – that could be too direct – but there are other ways they stay connected. When you have 100 numbers in your cellphone and 700 friends on Facebook, links linger.

Deleting an ex's number or clicking “Unfriend” takes work. Worse, it can feel like salt in a wound. An ex's words and smiles may (2) \_\_\_\_\_ or pop up in chat windows. It's easy to keep tabs on a former partner. In ways that weren't even imagined before the advent of instant messages and status updates, broken-up partners remain, for better or worse, a part of each other's lives.

By impeding a definitive ending, technology has created what relationship researcher Scott Stanley dubs the “soft breakup”. “There are so many easy, cheap ways to (3) \_\_\_\_\_,” says Stanley, a professor of psychology at the University of Denver. “Social media have completely transformed the chances of persistent connection.”

Compared with a wall of silence, a friendly text message here and an email there can take the edge off a breakup. “The soft breakup gives us a new way of saying ‘I don't want to date you, but let's try to be friends,’” says Galena Rhoades, a clinical psychologist who frequently collaborates with Stanley on research. “Having the option to do a soft breakup might (4) \_\_\_\_\_ they know is a dead end.”

But lingering ties come with big emotional risks. They facilitate on-again, off-again relationships even when the coupling was not ideal and needed to end.

Breakups are painful, and continuing connections can reinforce an impulse to turn to the ex for comfort, says Sarah Halpern-Meehin of the University of Wisconsin. Every flicker of reconnection can obscure the very sensible reasons a relationship ended.

At a minimum, electronic ties tempt exes to look backward. By offering a perpetual gaze into the lives of former partners, social media platforms (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Yet every hour spent monitoring an ex is an hour not spent searching for a better match.

The blurriness of breakups can undermine new relationships as well. The next partner may have a hard time tolerating any vestiges of a prior romance. “Exes may no longer be so ex,” says Stanley, but jealousy is still jealousy.

Lingering links can also fuel anxiety in a new partner. Rhoades hears clients voice fears of being left for the ex who hovers electronically. Not every concern is so dire, but it's worrisome enough to feel that “your partner may (6) \_\_\_\_.”

“We really don't like giving up options,” Rhoades says, “but not giving up options makes it harder to commit to any particular option.” In other words: It's harder to step into a new relationship when one foot is stuck in the past.

Given the drawbacks of soft breakups, wouldn't it be easier for exes to sever all ties, analog and digital? Often, prior partners are people who merit respect and whose opinions we value. We prefer to think that they (7) \_\_\_\_\_. “If we're deleting somebody from our life, chances are the other person is doing the same, and that's uncomfortable,” Rhoades says.

However much soft breakups blur the boundaries of romantic attachments, the new acceptance of post-breakup connection reflects a more generalized change in relationships: an increase in ambiguity at all stages of mating.

A	view us favorably despite the unhappy ending
B	motivate people to get out of a relationship
C	heal your grief and move forward with joy in your heart
D	continue to float across Facebook feeds
E	be sharing things that are not shared with you
F	see each other again
G	enable exes to hang on to hope
H	might not call each other or meet up
I	spend some time considering why a break is necessary
J	stay in contact now

It's over, or isn't it?

0 <input type="checkbox"/> F	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

Von der Lehrperson auszufüllen

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