

Tekst 1

Dear SERENA

**Dear Serena,
I love my partner very much, but he has a terrible tendency to meanness which he thinks he has disguised with a set of political stances about commercial exploitation and renewable resources. The endless recycling of string and the bits of wood clogging up the garden shed I can handle, but how can I persuade him to drop the pose and give me a Valentine's card this year?**

Stella, Brighton

Tell him that refusing to participate in loaded emotional occasions, however commercialised, can be interpreted as a sign of spiritual meanness and that you would really

appreciate receiving a card as a sign of his affection. And just in case, spend the housekeeping money on a back-up card to send yourself; that way he will at least have paid for half of it.

**Dear Serena,
Last year, I met a girl on the Internet who is everything a man could dream of: slim, blonde, small features, is popular, works in the music industry, lives in a warehouse flat in the centre of town, is a cordon bleu cook, and single. We've had a cyber-relationship for some months now, and the time has come to actually meet. The problem is this: How do you think she will react**



when she turns up to meet a Mel Gibson lookalike with his own company and finds a 20-stone bald bloke who lives in a bedsit and works in a sandwich bar? Oh, and I told her my name was Gideon.

Barry, Ealing

I wouldn't worry too much. Do you really think that the woman you describe is spending her nights sitting in by herself playing lonely hearts on a computer? At least you will have your lively imaginations in common. But I would suggest that you both wear unmistakable identifying marks in your buttonholes so you have some chance of recognising each other.

*'The Independent',
February 13, 1999*

*Let op: beantwoord een open vraag altijd in het Nederlands, behalve als het anders is aangegeven.
Als je in het Engels antwoordt, levert dat 0 punten op.*

■ Tekst 1 Dear Serena

- 1p **1 ■** What does Stella's complaint about her boyfriend come down to?
- A He cares too much for the environment.
 - B He finds it hard to spend money on her.
 - C He hides his true feelings for her.
 - D He is more interested in politics than in romance.
- 1p **2 ■** What is Barry's problem concerning the girl he has had a cyber-relation with, according to his letter?
- A He envies her for having so many good qualities.
 - B He fears that she will be deeply disappointed when she finds out what he is really like.
 - C He is not sure that he loves her enough to continue having contact with her.
 - D He is too shy to make an appointment with her.
- 1p **3 ■** What does Serena's answer to Barry's letter suggest?
- A Serena is convinced that Barry has made up his whole story to her.
 - B Serena thinks that Barry's looks, job and name are all right.
 - C The woman Barry wants to meet is not likely to show up at the appointed place and time.
 - D The woman Barry wants to meet may not be as perfect as she has led Barry to believe.
- 1p **4 ■** How can the overall tone of Serena's answer to Barry's letter be characterised?
- A As businesslike.
 - B As mocking.
 - C As surprised.