

Social Media Networks

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. How do you keep in touch with friends?
2. Do you have a Facebook or Twitter account?
3. Which social media networks are popular in your country?
4. Do you socialize online during work hours?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. keep in touch | a) in person |
| ___ 2. status | b) a condition or state that changes regularly |
| ___ 3. text message | c) easy and quick to use |
| ___ 4. convenient | d) a note typed out on a phone |
| ___ 5. face-to-face | e) a group that is connected |
| ___ 6. network | f) a child of your parent's first cousin |
| ___ 7. waste time | g) to spend too long doing something unimportant |
| ___ 8. dismissal | h) to communicate with others for fun |
| ___ 9. block | i) to prevent from entering |
| ___ 10. socialize | j) a reasonable level or degree |
| ___ 11. stay on task | k) firing or removing an employee |
| ___ 12. happy medium | l) to stay connected through writing or speaking |
| ___ 13. second cousin | m) to focus on the job |

Reading

SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

Taking time for friends

1. **Keeping in touch** with friends is easy these days. You can update your Facebook **status** and follow your friends' tweets on Twitter. You can also send and check **text messages** from your cell phone. Social media is **convenient**, but how often do you see your friends **face-to-face**? Time and technology often go hand in hand. Some people say they use **networks** like Instagram because they don't have time to **socialize** in person.
2. Others admit they **waste time** online when they are at work. Social networking on the job is a common cause for **dismissal**. Some companies **block** popular websites. They don't trust their employees to **stay on task**. Perhaps there is a **happy medium**. Do you really need to know what your **second cousin** had for lunch? Maybe you should wait until your break to check.

“One of the greatest ironies of the social media era is that some of the least social people in the world created it.”

—Sarah Lacy, technology journalist

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Name three social media networks that are mentioned.
2. How are cell phones commonly used these days?
3. What excuse do many people have for using social networks?
4. Why does the writer mention the term “second cousin”?
5. What suggestion is made in the reading?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

You may need to change the word forms.

1. People these days don't have time to _____ with their friends _____ .
2. I need to change my _____ to say that I am going away for the weekend.
3. My daughter _____ sending _____ instead of doing her homework.
4. A popular social media _____ in my country is Instagram.
5. I didn't know that I had a _____ until she added me as a relative on Facebook.
6. She finds it difficult to _____ when the people around her are socializing.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am better at <u>keeping in touch with</u> friends now that I have an Internet connection at home. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) dismissing b) sharing c) contacting d) helping 2. It is important to find a <u>happy medium</u> between working and having fun. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) balance b) level c) mediocre d) half | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. My company <u>blocks</u> us from using social media sites like YouTube. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourages b) watches c) teaches d) prevents 4. Sending a text message during a meeting is cause for an automatic <u>dismissal</u>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) job loss b) punishment c) pay cut d) job review |
|--|---|

Discussion

1. Do your friends share too much information on social media networks? What type of content is too much information?
2. Should people announce births and deaths on networks such as Facebook? Why or why not?
3. Is it wrong for parents to join the same social media networks as their teens? Why or why not?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate	How much time per day do you spend socializing online?	Do you check Facebook or other social media accounts while socializing (face-to-face) with friends?	Do you keep in touch with friends online while you are at work or school?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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Taking time for friends

1. Keeping in touch with friends is easy these days. You can _____ your Facebook status and follow your friends' tweets on Twitter. You can also send and check text messages from your _____. Social media is convenient, but how often do you see your friends face-to-face? Time and technology often go hand in hand. Some people say they use networks like Instagram because they _____ to socialize in person.
2. Others _____ they waste time online when they are at work. Social networking on the job is a common cause for dismissal. Some companies block popular websites. They _____ their employees to stay on task. Perhaps there is a happy medium. Do you really need to know what your second cousin had for lunch? Maybe you should wait until your _____ to check.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about and discuss friendship in the social media era. They discuss how much time they spend socializing online compared to face-to-face.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading. Audio is available for this lesson.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, friendship, socializing, social networks, social network, social media, Facebook, Twitter

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. l | 3. d | 5. a | 7. g | 9. i | 11. m | 13. f |
| 2. b | 4. c | 6. e | 8. k | 10. h | 12. j | |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. Discuss the quote. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Cell phones are commonly used to send and receive text messages.
- Many people say they don't have enough time to meet friends in person.
- A second cousin is unlikely to be a close friend to keep in touch with.
- Avoid using social media networks during work hours.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. socialize, face-to-face | 4. network |
| 2. status | 5. second cousin |
| 3. wastes time, text messages | 6. stay on task |

B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. a | 3. d | 4. a |
|------|------|------|------|

Discussion

Answers will vary.
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. update | 4. admit |
| 2. cell phone | 5. don't trust |
| 3. don't have time | 6. break |