

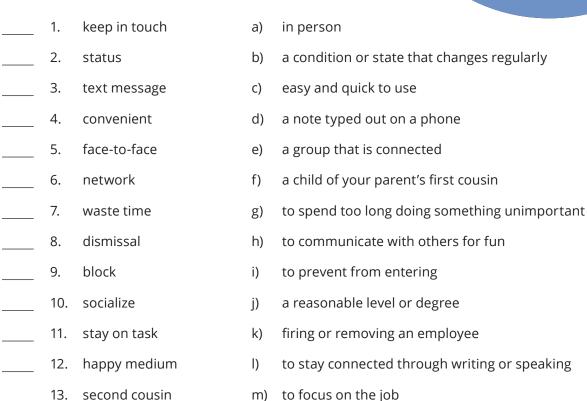
# **Pre-Reading**

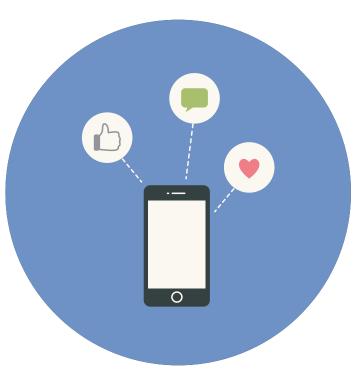
## A. Warm-Up Questions

- 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.







# 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?



**Discussion Starters** 

# **Vocabulary Review**

### A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1. You may need to change the word forms.

You may need to change the word forms.							
1. People these days don't have time to with their friends _			eir friends				
2.	I need to change my	to s	say that I am going aw	ay for the weekend.			
3.	My daughter	_ sending		instead of doing her homework.			
4.	A popular social media	i	n my country is lnstaរូ	gram.			
5.	I didn't know that I had a		until she added me a	s a relative on Facebook.			
6.	She finds it difficult to	W	hen the people arour	nd her are socializing.			
В.	Choose the Correct Word						
	Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.						

- 1. I am better at <u>keeping in touch with</u> friends now that I have an Internet connection at home.
  - a) dismissing
  - b) sharing
  - c) contacting
  - d) helping
- 2. It is important to find a <u>happy medium</u> between working and having fun.
  - a) balance
  - b) level
  - c) mediocre
  - d) half

- 3. My company <u>blocks</u> us from using social media sites like YouTube.
  - a) encourages
  - b) watches
  - c) teaches
  - d) prevents
- 4. Sending a text message during a meeting is cause for an automatic dismissal.
  - a) job loss
  - b) punishment
  - c) pay cut
  - d) job review



**Discussion Starters** 

# **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?



**Discussion Starters** 

# Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS**

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.



**Discussion Starters** 

# **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.	1	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

- 1. 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.
- 4. A second cousin is unlikely to be a close friend to keep in touch with.
- 5. Avoid using social media networks during work hours.

### **Vocabulary Review**

#### A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

socialize, face-to-face
 status
 second cousin
 wastes time, text messages
 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

update
 cell phone
 don't trust
 don't have time
 break