

Topic: People should be concerned about the effect online communication is having on social interaction.

- How far do you agree with this opinion?
- Give reasons for your answer.
- Include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

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It is _____ that, at present, people are spending a considerable amount of time on the Internet, and thus spending less time with real people. I _____ agree that although this use of the Internet has _____ increased the level of communication available, it has also had detrimental effects on the amount and type of social interaction that takes place.

The _____ of the Internet in terms of increased communication are clear, with people connected across the globe. In the past, communication was only possible by phone or mail, which entailed time and expense. It also usually meant just keeping in contact with those people already known to you. With the internet, this has changed _____. Email and social networking sites such as Facebook and MSN have created online communities that are global in scale, and they have fostered communication between people and countries that we would not have thought possible in the not too distant past.

That _____, there is no doubt in my _____ that this has had negative impacts on social interaction. People, especially the younger generation, spend hours of their time online. _____ this can be beneficial, it is certainly not the same as real interaction with human beings and does not involve the same skills. It is important that children have and maintain real friendships in order to develop their own interpersonal skills. _____, it can have negative effects on local communities if people are spending most of their time communicating online and not mixing in their neighbourhoods, and possibly _____ to feelings of isolation for those individuals who do not have a 'real' person to turn to in times of need.

To _____, I believe that the internet has _____ been beneficial, but there are good reasons to be concerned about social interaction in our societies. It is _____ important that we maintain a balance between our online life and our contact with real human beings.