


INSTRUCTIONS: Insert the questions back to the corresponding paragraphs

- 1 Are you inviting burglars to your house?
- 2 Have you written something you're going to regret?
- 3 The dangers of social networking
- 4 Are you giving away information about your friends?

SIGN INCREATE YOUR BLOG

A It's all just a bit of fun, right? Keeping in touch with friends, sharing photos and jokes. I certainly remember people's birthdays better now and I get a chance to congratulate my friends on their good luck, and commiserate with them when things go wrong. I love logging in and seeing everyone's messages, finding out what clips they've been watching, the music they've been listening to, the things they've been doing.

But there's a darker side to social networks too, dangers lurking behind every status update and every link. Here are three things to think about when you write your next status update.

B Does your profile information contain your home address? If so, never write about the exact dates of your holiday, or tell people that your house is going to be empty. You might come back to a nasty surprise!

Every time you press the 'like' button on a website, your tastes and your preferences are being stored to be used by marketing departments to target ads at you. Sometimes this may be useful, but it often leads to spam. Maybe you don't mind, but if you name a friend at the same time, then you're giving their information away, too. Will they be happy with that? Think about it next time you hit the 'like' button.

C

D Be careful what you write about online. You might think it's private and that only your friends are going to see it, but that's not always true. There was a famous case a few years ago where a teacher in the USA wrote a message to her friends complaining about her students and her school. The principal of the school saw the message. The teacher lost her job. So never write anything you're not happy for everybody to see!

