

## Cyber-bullying

### 1. Reading practice and comprehension

*Read the article below then answer the questions.*

Cyber-bullying is a form of online harassment of a person. This problem was almost unheard of only 15 years ago. However, more and more people are now using the Internet. This is creating new problems for society. On the Internet, it is easier for people to hide their identity. This can encourage bullies to use the Internet to engage in this kind of harmful behavior. There are many ways that cyber-bullies use the Internet to **hurt** their victim.



Cyber-bullies might use social media sites like Facebook or Twitter to make hurtful comments about another person. They may spread rumors or lies about someone, which can damage the victim's **reputation**. Cyber-bullies often pose as another person in order to try and make their victim say something embarrassing. **They** might also try to trick their victim into believing they are in a romantic relationship or friendship that is not real. Another form of cyber-bullying is to post embarrassing photographs or videos of the victim without asking permission. **These** can remain on the Internet for years so they are very distressing for victims.

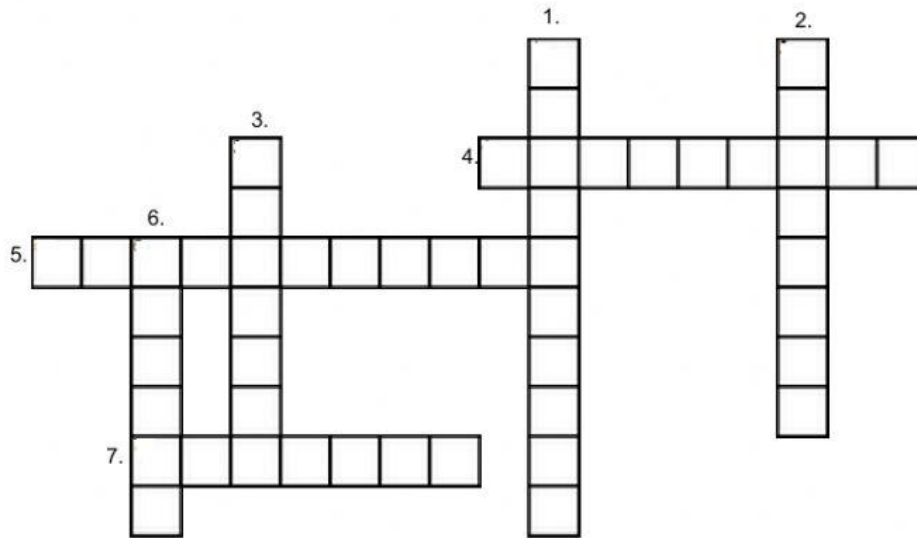
This type of bullying is becoming more **common**, especially among young people. A 2010 CBS News report showed that 42% of young Americans have been the victim of cyber-bullying. Some victims of cyber-bullying have even committed suicide. Many governments are trying to make online harassment illegal. Forty-five states in America have passed laws to prevent online bullying. Canada is currently considering passing a strict law against cyber-bullying. It will take some time before society learns how to **cope with** the potential drawbacks of this new technology.

1. According to the article, what is cyber-bullying?
  - a) when someone hides their identity online
  - b) when someone encourages a person to post content online
  - c) when someone uses the internet to harm or frighten another person
  - d) when someone hurts or frightens someone who is smaller or less powerful
2. According to the article, why was cyber-bullying almost unheard of 15 years ago?
  - a) because recently most societies are worse than ever
  - b) because recently more people are now using the Internet
  - c) because recently more people are turning into bullies
  - d) because bullying someone online is easier than bullying someone physically

3. The word "hurt" in paragraph 1 could be replaced with:
- a) abuse
  - b) burn
  - c) assist
  - d) smash
4. The word "reputation" in paragraph 2 could be replaced with:
- a) fame
  - b) character
  - c) appearance
  - d) excellence
5. The word "these" in paragraph 2 refers to:
- a) victims
  - b) cyber-bullies
  - c) romantic relationships
  - d) photographs or videos
6. The word "they" in paragraph 2 refers to:
- a) victims
  - b) boyfriends
  - c) girlfriends
  - d) cyber-bullies
7. The word "common" in paragraph 3 could be replaced with:
- a) general
  - b) popular
  - c) accepted
  - d) private
8. According to the article, why are many governments trying to make online harassment illegal?
- a) because of the tragedies which have been caused by online bullying
  - b) because 42% of young Americans want stricter laws
  - c) because Canada is currently considering passing a strict law against cyber-bullying
  - d) because society cannot cope with cyber-bullying
9. According to the article, how many American states have passed legislation on cyber-bullying?
- a) 42
  - b) 43
  - c) 44
  - d) 45
10. The phrase "cope with" in paragraph 3 could be replaced with:
- a) put up with
  - b) run with
  - c) deal with
  - d) go with

## 2. Vocabulary practice

Complete the crossword using words from the Cyber-bullying reading.



1. behavior that annoys or upsets someone  
harmful

2. a website where you can show information about  
yourself, and communicate with friends

3. causing or likely to cause harm

6. someone who has suffered the effects of violence,  
illness, or bad luck

4. problems or disadvantages

5. the groups of people who officially control a  
country

7. not allowed by law