

1

Let's chat



Discuss:

- ▶ How do you usually communicate with your friends?
- ▶ Look at the pictures below. Which of the means of communication do you prefer using? Why? Use the ideas in the box.

- send emails
- make a phone call
- video calling
- send videos, pictures / MMS
- instant messaging / chatting
- have access to the Internet
- send text messages / SMS



landline telephone



mobile phone



computer + webcam



letter

postcard

Value(s)

- ▶ Friendship

Go through the module and find...

- ▶ a boy's webpage
- ▶ an advertisement from the past
- ▶ two emails
- ▶ what teenagers think about social networking sites
- ▶ a conversation between a teenager and his dad

In this module you will...

- ▶ talk about various aspects of communication
- ▶ learn to distinguish between permanent and temporary situations
- ▶ learn to make comparisons
- ▶ learn to express likes / dislikes
- ▶ learn to write a personal webpage
- ▶ learn to refer to past habits and events
- ▶ learn to write an informal letter / email based on prompts
- ▶ learn to express enthusiasm, accept or refuse an invitation and give news

1a

Read

A. Discuss.

- What do you know about social networking sites?
- Are you a member of a social networking site?
- What do you use it for?

B. Read the texts A-D. What is each person's opinion about social networking sites? Is it positive, negative or both?

YOUR OPINION: Social networking sites

A. Alicia, 16

I spend a lot of my free time on social networking sites. They're great for keeping in touch with my mates and finding old friends, too. The other day, I found a school friend from primary school. I was so pleased to hear her news. Social networking sites are also useful for helping people out. I saw on a friend's page that one of his friends needed a driving instructor. My uncle is a driving instructor and he's on the same social networking site. I introduced them and they were both happy. My parents complain that playing online games with friends is a waste of time, but I totally disagree. You see, I'm really into trivia games, but also word games and chess, which I find amusing and educational. So, I can't see any **drawback** there.



B. Adrian, 16

I don't think social networking sites are for me. I really don't like having too much information about myself out there on the web. I mean, anyone could find my email and start sending me spam or viruses. There's also cyberbullying which can be very **nasty**. A friend of mine had to stop using a social networking site last month because someone was **constantly** saying horrible things about her. Also, someone could pretend to be you and commit crimes. Imagine that!



TIPS!

- Don't panic if you've got unknown vocabulary. You don't have to know the meaning of every single word to understand the text.
- Decide which words are important for understanding the text and try to guess what they mean.

C. Rayyan, 15

I'm not a big social networking site user to be honest. I can't understand why people have to **update** their status all the time. I don't want to know what someone is buying at the supermarket, or how long they've been waiting in traffic. What do I care? But I find it useful for events. We're putting on a school play at the end of the year, and using a social networking site makes it a lot easier. We're organising the tickets these days. It really helps. We've got our own page to advertise the school play, and when it's over we'll upload photos and videos of the **highlights**.



D. Emma, 14

I'm a member of a social networking site but I'm thinking about **deactivating** it. For one thing, it's taking up too much of my time. I play virtual games, chat with loads of people and I have hundreds of friends. The more time I spend on social networking sites, the less time I have for my real life. I think the final straw is my mum. She is a member of the same social networking site as me and I made the mistake of making her one of my friends. She hasn't lost touch with her old school mates and she really enjoys being online. But now she tends to follow my every move. It's so embarrassing! I can't do anything without her knowing.



C. Look at the highlighted words in the texts and choose the correct meaning a or b.

1. drawback
a. disadvantage b. advantage
2. nasty
a. boring b. unpleasant
3. constantly
a. rarely b. continuously
4. update
a. give the most recent information b. give false information
5. highlights
a. the best parts of something b. the highest parts of something
6. deactivating
a. making something stop working b. breaking something

D. Read the texts A-D again and answer the questions below. Write A, B, C or D.

Who mentions...

1. ... that he / she has been using social networking sites a bit too much? ☐
2. ... helping friends through a social networking site? ☐
3. ... that some personal information on social networking sites is useless? ☐
4. ... the dangers of using social networking sites? ☐
5. ... organising an event at school? ☐
6. ... how a family member might make him/her stop using a social networking site? ☐
7. ... finding an old friend? ☐

E. Discuss.

- What do you think of social networking sites?
- With which writer do you share the same opinion?
- Have you had a similar experience?

Grammar

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

- Tanya **enjoys** using social networking sites and **uses** them every day.
She's **playing** an online game at the moment.
- I **don't understand** why Emma **is** always **chatting** on the Net with Linda. They **see** each other five times a week.
Tomorrow they're **spending** the whole day together.

NOTE Stative verbs (see, like, want, seem, understand, need, believe, imagine, know, cost, etc.) are **not** usually used in the Present Continuous.

Complete with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

1. A: Why are you in such a hurry? What time _____ the train to Brighton _____ (leave)?
B: At 9 p.m. But I _____ (want) to be at the train station at six o'clock because I _____ (meet) my friend Sally.
2. A: Whose suitcase is this?
B: It's Timothy's. He _____ (stay) with us for a few days.
A: Really? Where is he now?
B: He's outside with Larry. They _____ (wash) the car. Larry _____ (always / wash) the car on Sundays.
3. A: Hey, Mary. Can you explain this text to me? I _____ (not understand) it.
B: Not now, Kevin. I _____ (work).
A: Oh Mary. You _____ (never / help) me!
4. A: Why _____ the children _____ (cry)?
B: Because they can't find their cat. They _____ (think) someone took it.
A: Their cat is outside. It _____ (sleep) next to the garage.