

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

YOUR OPINION: SN sites

A. Tanya, 16

I spend a lot of my free time on SN 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. SN 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 SN 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 SN 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 e-mail and start sending me spam or viruses. There's also cyberbullying which can be very nasty. A friend of mine had to stop using an SN site last month because someone was constantly saying horrible things about her. Also, someone could pretend to be you and commit crimes. Imagine that!



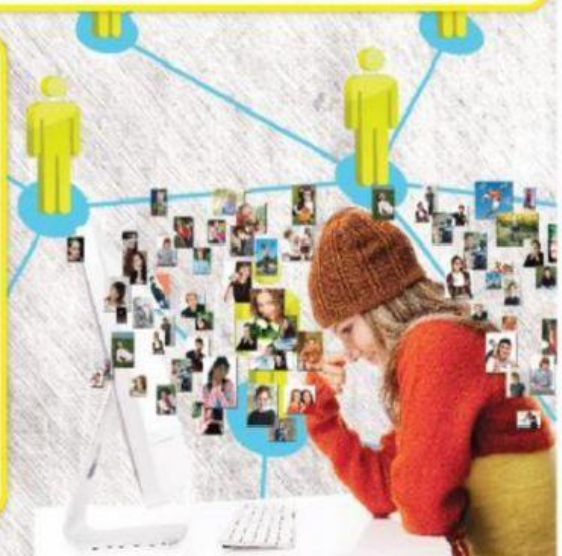
C. Ronnie, 15

I'm not a big SN 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 an SN 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 an SN 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 SN 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 SN 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. all the time
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. deactivate
a. make something stop working b. break 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 SN sites a bit too much?
2. ... helping friends through an SN site?
3. ... that some personal information on SN sites is useless?
4. ... the dangers of using SN sites?
5. ... organising an event at school?
6. ... how a family member might make him/her stop using an SN site?
7. ... finding an old friend?

E. Discuss.

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

Grammar

Present Simple vs Present Progressive

- Tanya **enjoys** using SN 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 Progressive.

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

1. **A:** Why are you in such a hurry? What time _____ the train to Brighton _____ (leave)?
B: At 9pm. 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 kids _____ (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.