

English Learning Through Digital Media

Unit 6 Internet Forum



Getting Started

What is an internet forum?

An internet forum is a place where people can exchange ideas on topics of interest. Its members can post discussions and read and respond to messages written by other participants. A forum can focus on various topics and usually develops a sense of virtual community among its members.

Forums are also known as bulletin boards or discussion groups, differing from a blog because the latter is usually written by a user or administrators of the web and usually only allows the responses of other users regarding the material of the blog. A forum usually allows all members to post and start new topics.

As a general rule, the prospective member must register before they can join a group and write a message. This user will need to follow certain online rules, known as netiquette, such as treating other members with respect and refraining from using profanity. When a member is approved by the administrator or moderator, they usually choose their own username and password. An avatar, photograph, or image provided by the member usually appears next to the username in each message.

Separate conversations in a forum are called threads and are made up of messages written by members. Typically, users can edit their own messages, launch new topics, and edit their profile. A general profile displays optional information about each member of the forum, such as the city where they are located and their interests.

The forum administrator or moderator can also participate in the threads. An administrator can modify the discussions, as well as move or delete them if necessary, usually being their role to monitor and guide the discussion to ensure that the rules of the forum are being followed.

Exercise 1: Match the words with their correct meanings.

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. A forum is | a. Separate conversations on bulletin boards |
| 2. A blog is | b. allows all members to post and start new topics. |
| 3. Threads are | c. written by a user or administrators of the web |
| 4. Netiquette is | d. can modify, delete, monitor and guide the discussion. |
| 5. The forum moderator | e. to treat other members with respect and refraining from using profanity. |

Language focus

Verbs are words that express action or state of being. There are three types of verbs: action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs.

1. ACTION VERB

Action verbs are words that express action (give, eat, walk, etc.) or possession (have, own, etc.). Action verbs can be either transitive or intransitive.

1.1 A transitive verb always has a noun that receives the action of the verb, called the direct object.

EXAMPLE: Laurissa raises her hand.

The verb is raises. Her hand is the object receiving the verb's action. Therefore, raises is a transitive verb.

Transitive verbs sometimes have indirect objects, which name the object to whom or for whom the action was done.

EXAMPLE: Abdus gave Becky the pencil.

The verb is gave. The direct object is the pencil. (What did he give? The pencil.) The indirect object is Becky. (To whom did he give it? To Becky.)

1.2 Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb never has a direct or indirect object. Although an intransitive verb may be followed by an adverb or adverbial phrase, there is no object to receive its action.

EXAMPLE: Laurissa rises slowly from her seat.

The verb is rises. The phrase, slowly from her seat, modifies the verb, but no object receives the action.

2. LINKING VERBS

A linking verb connects the subject of a sentence to a noun or adjective that renames or describes the subject. This noun or adjective is called the subject complement.

EXAMPLE: Jason became a business major.

The verb, became, links the subject, Jason, to its complement, a business major.

Lisa is in love with Jason.

The verb, is, links the subject, Lisa, to the subject complement, in love with Jason (describing Lisa).

The most common linking verb is the verb to be in all of its forms (am, are, is, was, were, etc.). This verb may also be used as a helping verb (see next section). To become and to seem are always linking verbs.

Other verbs may be linking verbs in some cases and action verbs in others:

appear	continue	grow	prove	seem*	stay	taste
become	feel	look	remain*	sound	smell	turn

LINKING: Libby appeared happy. (Appeared links Libby to the subject complement, happy.)

ACTION: Deon suddenly appeared. (Here, appeared is an intransitive action verb.)

3. HELPING VERBS

Helping verbs are used before action or linking verbs to convey additional information regarding aspects of possibility (can, could, etc.) or time (was, did, has, etc.). The main verb with its accompanying helping verb is called a verb phrase.

EXAMPLES: Teju is (helping verb) going (main verb) to Florida.

The trip might (helping verb) be (main verb) dangerous.

Helping verbs include Verbs to Be, Verbs to Do, verbs to Have and Modal Verbs as following:

be	being	do	have	shall	may	must
is	was	does	had	should	might	used to
am	were	did	will	can	need to	ought to
are	been	has	would	could	need	

HELPING: Jana is moving to a new house.

LINKING: Jana is ready to go.

MODAL: Tanya could learn to fly helicopters. (Could helps the main verb, learn.)

HELPING: Dustin did eat his vegetables!

ACTION: Dustin did his homework last night

MODAL: Janine will drive to Idaho tomorrow. (Will helps the main verb, drive.)

Exercise 2: Find the verb and write it into the correct column.

1. Mrs. Baker is forty-two years old.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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2. She works at an automobile manufacturing plant in Michigan.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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3. She has been working there for twenty years.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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4. In twenty more years, she will retire.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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5. Mr. Baker was forty-two years old last year.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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6. He is a year older than Mrs. Baker.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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7. He is a librarian at a school library.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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8. He finds books for students.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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9. He has been helping students for fifteen years.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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10. He likes his job.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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11. He will work in the library for twenty more years.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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12. Then he and Mrs. Baker will travel around the country.

Action V		Linking V		Helping V	
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Exercise 3: Read a message board below. Complete the verb chart.



Ellen: Hi Springfield residents—can you please help me? I'm moving to Springfield next month. I'm looking for an apartment, so I want to learn about Springfield's neighborhoods. What neighborhood do you live in? Do you like it? Why or why not?



Lana: I live in the West End. It's a really fun neighborhood! **At the end of** my street there are some great restaurants and a movie theater. There's also a gym, so I exercise every day. Best of all, there's a grocery store **across from** my apartment, so I always have food in my refrigerator!



Calvin: I live in Parkside. It's beautiful and quiet, and has lots of nice old houses. There's a big park next to my house. I usually run there after work. There's a bus stop **on the corner**, so I can take the bus to work. I hope you move to this neighborhood, Ellen!



Mark: Hi, Ellen. I live in the West End, too. I'm always tired because I can't sleep at night. It's so noisy here! There are lots of cars and people. I live **next to** a busy restaurant, and they play loud music at night. I want to move to a different neighborhood soon.



Ellen: Thanks for your help, everyone! I hope to meet you all soon!

Message Of	Verb Lists		
	Action	Helping	Linking
Ellen			
Lana			
Calvin			
Mark			

Looking closely

A forum can be focused on nearly any subject and a sense of an online community, or virtual community, tends to develop among forum members.

An Internet forum is also different from a chat room. Members in a chat room usually all chat or communicate at the same time, while members in a discussion group post messages to be read by others whenever they happen to log on. Forums also tend to be more topic-focused than chat rooms.

When a member is approved by the administrator or moderator, the member usually chooses his or her own user name and password, although sometimes, a password is supplied. An avatar, or photograph or picture, supplied by the member might appear under the member's user name in each post.

Exercise 4: Read the Message board: Springfield Neighborhood on the previous page again. Answer the questions.

1. What Ellen want to know?

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2. Why does Ellen want information about Springfield's neighborhoods?

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3. Do Lana Calvin and Mark like their neighborhoods? Why or Why not?

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Exercise 5: Read the text below and answer the questions

Ask Me in English

AskMe | Ask people

Browse all questions
Search categories
My account
About AskMe
Help

Q: What is the best city in the world for families?
Asked by Fernanda from Brazil

 **Cindy from the U.S.** posted 22 hours ago
Portland, Oregon, because it is clean and safe.

 **Jean from France** posted 17 hours ago
Aix-en-Provence is beautiful. Children and parents always love this place!

 **Daniela from Austria** posted 12 hours ago
Vienna is good for families because it has good transportation.

 **Martin from Australia** posted two hours ago
We lived for two years in Adelaide, Australia. The people are friendly, and it has nice parks.

4:30 p.m.

1. What topic is the name of this forum?

.....**

2. What topic is this forum page?

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