

Emiratis always online

A recent study in the UAE has found that Emirati teenagers are some of the heaviest users of social media in the world.

While Emirati adults prefer apps that help them **keep up with world events**, teenagers like to use sites and apps where they can **post pictures** and communicate with their friends. Most teenagers use social media for educational purposes, that is to help them with their studies or homework, whereas adults use the social media for business reasons, for example to **network with business contacts** and find out about job opportunities.

The most popular form of online communication for both teenagers and adults in the UAE is email. 99% of teenagers surveyed have an email account, compared with 97% of adults.

Maryam, 13, has several favourite social media sites and she **checks her account** and **updates her status** regularly on all of them. 'I like to see the different pictures

that my friends post and I enjoy reading their thoughts and comments about life. I get to know my friends better this way,' she says.

Ali, 14, spends hours **surfing the Internet** and participating in online chat forums 'I like arts & crafts and making things and I get lots of good ideas on specialist chat forums. I use social media to get along with people who have the same interests as me. We show each other things we have made and talk about them.'

Jaber, 13, travels a lot with his family and likes sharing photos from his trips with friends. Social media also helps him **keep in touch with** the new people he meets. 'On social media I can share my travel experiences as well as pictures from home with new friends,' he said.

- 2** Read the statements below. Are they true (T) or false (F) according to the text?
Correct the false statements.

- 1 Emirati adults are the heaviest users of social media. ____
- 2 Many teenagers use social media for educational reasons. ____
- 3 Many adults use social media for leisure and personal interest, for example meeting people. ____
- 4 Email is the most popular form of social media in the Emirates. ____
- 5 All three teenagers in the text say they use social media to connect with friends. ____