

Read the article about **storing digital photos** and complete 1 - 5 with a heading from the drop-down list. *There's one extra heading you don't need. Read carefully!*

How **safe** are your digital photos?

In the past, your grandmother probably kept her photos in a box, or in an old album, and sadly, over time, these memories faded or disappeared. But with today's technology, that shouldn't be a problem. A digital photo lasts forever, right? Actually, think again.

05 Although it is still a good idea to keep all of your photos as digital computer files, there are plenty of things that can damage or even destroy those high-tech memories.

1

Very few people realize this can happen, but if you store your photos as .jpgs (the most common file format), the file will actually
10 deteriorate every time you copy and edit it. Experts disagree about how much damage this can do, but the damage is real.



2

Your files may be safe on your hard drive, but how long until your hard drive dies? The average lasts just five years. You could back up your photos on a CD-ROM or flash drive, but they don't last forever either – about 10–20 years at most, experts say.

3

Let's say all goes well and your CD-ROM or flash drive full of photos lasts for 20 years. By then, will there still be any CD-ROM drives in the world that can read the disc? Will you be able to insert your flash drive into a modern computer? Today's high-tech storage solution is tomorrow's useless floppy disk.

4

People talk about saving their photos in a magical place on the internet, like Apple's iCloud, or Dropbox. But this just means they are in a company's data centre on – guess what? – lots of hard drives, which could die or corrupt just as easily as your own. During a thunderstorm, a cloud storage centre in the USA was hit, and major sites like Netflix, Pinterest, and Instagram went offline for almost a whole day. Thousands of files were lost.

5

Websites like Flickr and Instagram let you quickly upload photos and share them with others. But bear in mind that a photo site which is popular now could one day go out of business, taking your photos with it. What's more, if you upload photos to these sites, there is someone other than you who controls your access. While it is generally not in their interest to stop you accessing your files, they can and sometimes do. They can even cancel your account.

So what should you do? Experts say you should make lots of copies of your photos and save them in many different ways – on your computer, on a back-up drive, online, and even as traditional printed photos. It may be too late to save Grandma's photos, but you can still save yours.

Glossary

floppy disk a flexible disk covered in hard plastic, which used to be used for storing computer data

Read the article again. Match the storage method to the problem it has.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ .jpg files | a only last for about five years |
| 2 ☐ hard drives | b only last for 10 to 20 years |
| 3 ☐ CD-ROMs and flash drives | c are damaged when they're copied |
| 4 ☐ CD-ROM drives | d can close down |
| 5 ☐ iCloud or Dropbox | e may not exist in the future |
| 6 ☐ photo sites | f can be damaged by storms |

Match the **bold** verbs or phrases from the article to their meaning.

- 1 ☐ to **store** photos *l.08*
- 2 ☐ to **back up** photos *l.13*
- 3 ☐ to **go offline** *l.26*
- 4 ☐ to **upload** a photo *l.29*
- 5 ☐ to **cancel** your account *l.36*

- a to disconnect from the internet
- b to transfer to another computer
- c to no longer continue
- d to make a copy
- e to keep or preserve