



READING ACTIVITY



Topic: Digital Footprints & Online Safety

Task 5A



Read the article. Choose the examples of things that contribute to your digital footprint (a–h) mentioned:

- a) emails
- b) photos and videos
- c) tags on photos
- d) text messages
- e) internet shopping
- f) likes or loves on social media
- g) your search history
- h) an online calendar

Task 5B

Read again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?

- ☐ T / ☐ F 1. When online, you leave info without realising.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 2. People don't know the risk of social media.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 3. You can't stop people copying your posts.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 4. Some footprint info is shared unintentionally.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 5. Companies sell footprint info to others.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 6. You can completely delete your footprint.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 7. People should be careful about online info.
- ☐ T / ☐ F 8. Think if you'd want everyone to read your post.

Digital Footprints



Have you ever walked on a beach and looked behind at the footprints your feet made in the sand, showing where you've been? We leave footprints in other places, too, often without realising. If you've ever uploaded a video to YouTube or 'liked' a photo on social media, you've left a digital footprint. Nearly all the stuff we do online – sending emails, using a map or tagging photos – leaves information about ourselves that can be seen by anyone, even people we don't know. Just like real footprints, this online trail tells people where we've been and what we've done.

We all know about the dangers of sharing too much personal information online. Everyone's heard stories about people losing their jobs because they were tagged in a photo at a party when they were supposed to be at work, or people whose houses were broken into after posting holiday plans. Once information is shared online, we can no longer control who sees it. What we post is permanent. Even auto-delete apps don't prevent someone from making a copy first!

Our digital footprint is also made up of data we share without knowing. When you browse the internet, your IP address is recorded. Also, cookies observe how and when you use websites. Every search word and clicked link provides information. That's why targeted adverts keep popping up!

It's impossible to avoid a digital footprint unless you never go online. Even deleting search history leaves some data behind. Make sure your footprint doesn't cause problems: limit personal info and think before posting. Ask yourself: *would I be happy seeing this post online in ten years' time?*

