

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words

1. acquaintance
2. adolescent
3. apparently
4. carry out
5. community
6. consequence
7. contact
8. eradicate
9. exchange
10. explode
11. immense
12. impose
13. interact
14. post
15. pursue
16. statistics
17. susceptible
18. trend
19. undergo
20. unfold

Definitions

- A. v., to remove completely
- B. adv., seemingly
- C. n., information in the form of numbers; data
- D. n., a friend you do not know well
- E. adj., easily affected
- F. n., result
- G. n., communication, connection
- H. n., person between the ages of thirteen and nineteen
- I. n., movement in a certain direction, popular fashion
- J. adj., very big; huge
- K. v., to trade something
- L. v., to experience, suffer
- M. n., a social group
- N. v., to display information in a public place
- O. v., to grow suddenly and rapidly
- P. v., to do, perform
- Q. v., to develop; open up
- R. v., to force
- S. v., to communicate with
- T. v., to hunt for; seek

Reading

Social Networking

A

During the first decade of the twenty-first century, the phenomenon of social networking on the Internet **exploded** across the globe. Online social networking sites are websites that allow people to **post** personal information about themselves and to connect with people who have similar interests. It is a way of forming **community**, but a **community** that exists online rather than in physical space. Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, and Twitter are examples of some of the most commonly used social networking sites.

B

Recent **statistics** show that 75 percent¹ of Internet users around the world use social networking sites to some extent and that 22 percent of all time spent online is spent on these sites. Of all the countries in the world, Italy is **apparently** the place where social networking is most popular. Italians spend an average of six and a half hours per month per person on social networking sites, followed by Australians, with an average time of just over six hours a month. In comparison, the Japanese are much less interested in social networking, spending an average of just two and a half hours per person per month on these sites. The global average is close to five and a half hours per month. The social networking **trend** has increased among people of all ages.

C

The phenomenon of social networking sites may present unanticipated **consequences** for people's lives in the future. The **immense** popularity of these sites is evidence that they contribute to users' lives in positive ways, but there are drawbacks as well. Social networking sites allow people to broaden their social reach both personally and professionally. These sites allow users to stay in **contact** with friends and relatives and reconnect with old friends from the past. The sites also provide opportunities for people to connect with strangers in far-distant places who share similar interests or to seek support when **undergoing** difficulties such as a grave illness. In the business world, people use social networking sites to **carry out** business, **pursue** employment opportunities, or seek new business clients. Students of all ages discuss homework assignments and future educational and career plans. Social networking sites **eradicate** the limits **imposed** by the physical world and make it possible to communicate and **exchange** information with people everywhere.

¹BrE: per cent

D

On the other hand, concerns are growing about online social networking. As people spend more time **interacting** with each other online, they spend less time in face-to-face communication. Social networking can actually lead to separation as families and neighbors² spend less time together while they are busy using the Internet. There are also potential risks. Social networking involves making personal information available online, which means that, unless the user is careful, anyone can have access to that information. **Adolescents** may be particularly **susceptible** to this danger. It is also impossible to know anyone's true identity online. **Acquaintances** found on the Internet may not be who people think they are. The effects that social networking will have on our social relationships and sense of safety remain to be seen as the future **unfolds**.

Answer the questions about **Social Networking**.

Questions 1–4

The reading passage contains six paragraphs, **A–D**.
Which paragraphs discuss the following information?
Write the correct letter, **A–D**.

- _____ 1. The different reasons people pursue contacts on social networking sites
- _____ 2. Possible negative consequences of social networking
- _____ 3. The amount of time people spend interacting on social networking sites
- _____ 4. When the social networking trend became big

²BrE: neighbours

Questions 5–9

Complete the summary using words from the list below.

Recently, the popularity of social networking sites has **5**..... . There are **6**..... advantages to these sites. People use these sites to post information about themselves, seek new **7**..... and **8**..... professional opportunities. There are also drawbacks. Social networking online may mean that people **9**..... less with the people around them. It also gives strangers access to personal information.

acquaintances
exchanged
exploded

immense
interact
pursue

statistics
susceptible
undergo

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words

Definitions

_____	_____
_____	_____
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