

Reading

For most teens, the Internet has been part of their everyday lives since they were little. But sites like Facebook or YouTube can change lives, too. Here are the stories of two people whose lives have changed dramatically since they made incredible discoveries on the Internet.

Tomoko's story

Tomoko, from the U.K., has always known that she had a twin sister. She was one of two twin girls born in Tokyo in 1987, but they were separated at birth and were adopted by two different families. When she was 4 years old, Tomoko moved to Scotland with her new parents. She used to dream of meeting her sister, and one day she discovered that there was a girl in a YouTube video who looked exactly like herself. The similarities were amazing, apart from the fact that the other girl spoke with an American accent. Tomoko decided to find out more about this intriguing "double." She discovered that Jade, the girl in the YouTube video, was an American singer who used to live in Tokyo. She had exactly the same birthday as Tomoko! The girls met up in London a few months later, and medical tests have proved that they are actually twin sisters. Since their discovery, Tomoko and Jade have been in contact with each other every day and have got to know each other well.

Annie's story

Imagine meeting your daughter again after a gap of 68 years. Hard to believe, but that's exactly what happened to Annie Walberg from Connecticut, U.S. Annie was only 16 when she had a baby in 1945. She wasn't able to keep the baby, so Fiona, her one-day-old daughter, was given to another family. For the next 25 years, Annie wrote hundreds of letters to the daughter she missed so badly. However, Fiona's new family thought it was best not to give them to Fiona, so they used to destroy the letters as soon as they arrived. Naturally, as she grew up, Fiona felt disappointed that her real mother didn't want to know her or have any contact with her. Then, nearly 70 years later, Fiona received a friend request on Facebook from an 84-year-old who introduced herself as her mother! Annie found her daughter by searching the Internet, and using a few details that she knew about the family who adopted her.

Since they found each other, the mother and daughter have met lots of times. They get on well with each other and enjoy themselves a lot when they meet. Instead of being angry about the lost years, they are happy to be back together again.

Read the article about meeting people on the Internet. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). If there is no information about this, choose "not given" (NG).

- 1 The Internet has helped thousands of people find lost friends and relatives.
T / F / NG
- 2 Tomoko has spent most of her life in Tokyo.
T / F / NG
- 3 Tomoko remembers seeing her sister for the first time on a video.
T / F / NG
- 4 Tomoko sent Jade an email.
T / F / NG
- 5 They haven't discovered whether Jade is Tomoko's twin.
T / F / NG
- 6 Annie tried to contact her daughter for years.
T / F / NG
- 7 The parents who adopted Fiona knew her mother.
T / F / NG

- 8 Fiona used to read her mother's letters.
T / F / NG
- 9 Fiona thought that her mother wasn't interested in her.
T / F / NG
- 10 Fiona met her mother on Facebook.
T / F / NG

Complete the text with the words in the box.

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I read a nice story last week. It ¹ _____ shared with me online by my friend Amy. It's about a couple who are called Andrew and Megan. They ² _____ to be in ³ _____ with each ⁴ _____ when they were at school. But when they both went to college, they decided to take a ⁵ _____ from their relationship. They both got to ⁶ _____ other people and started families. But after Andrew fell ⁷ _____ with his wife and Megan was ⁸ _____ on by her husband, both began to ask ⁹ _____ the same question: "Were we right to break up?" They both started contacting old friends at the same time. Megan read Andrew's email first: "Remember me?" it said. ¹⁰ _____ then, they've been together.