

**Instruction:** Drag the main idea and drop it into the correct paragraph.

Social networking is a growing global trend in communication.

Social networking sites are interactive and allow people to share personal content and stay in touch.

People use social networking sites daily to see what others are doing and to share their own updates.

Social networking started with college students and is now used by people of all ages to connect and communicate.

One reason social networking sites are popular is because people are social and want to stay connected.

Social networking sites became popular because users can now contribute content and express themselves online.

Every morning Sarah turns on her computer. First, she checks her email. Then, she visits a social networking website to find out what her friends are doing. On this website, she reads news from her friends. For example, she may look at comments her friends made about movies, music, books, and other friends. On her profile page, Sarah writes a short message about what she is doing. Like many young people, Sarah enjoys meeting and communicating with others on social networks. These websites let people see what their friends are doing and thinking.

Sarah is part of an important **trend** in communication. Social networking sites become more and more popular every day, and they are popular all around the world. In Japan, the top site is Mixi. In Europe, it is Bebo. The most popular site in Latin America is Orkut. In the United States, the top site is Facebook. Facebook is one of the most popular social networking sites in the world. A Harvard University student started Facebook in 2004, and it **spread** to more than 400 million users in just a few years.

Why is the social networking trend spreading so rapidly? One reason that these websites are popular is because people are social. We like to communicate with other people. We make friends with people in school, at work, and online. Most people like to stay closely **connected** to their friends and family. We use cell phones, email, instant messaging, and websites to learn what our friends are doing. The Internet is a good way to socialize and communicate, and social networking sites allow people to do this in many ways.

Social networking sites are interactive and personal. People can share photographs of themselves and of others. They can tell people what they are doing at any moment and **keep in touch**. They can post a link to a site with their favorite song or band. They can join groups with others who share their interests. Many people post videos of themselves on sites like YouTube. Other users can comment on these photos and videos. This interaction makes these websites become more popular.

Another reason that social networking sites are popular is because the users write what is on the site. In the past, websites only had information for users to read. In this way, websites were like newspapers or television. All of the communication went in only one direction: from the website to the users. In the past, the average person didn't contribute to the websites. Today, the Internet is more interactive than it was in the past. Now anyone can have their own website, blog, or page on sites like Facebook. Readers are now also writers and can easily add material to the Web. People can express their own ideas, and they can put their own experiences online.

Social networking sites first became popular with college students. At one college, students said that they spent almost two hours every day just on Facebook. Teenagers also use these sites to stay connected with their friends. These days, even older people are using social networks. The Internet keeps changing, but one trend is **clear**: People enjoy using websites that let them connect with others. They like to express themselves and communicate online.