Unit 7: Exercise 1

Read the information. Then complete the sentences. Use the words and phrases in the box.

When writers use the passive, they often leave out auxiliary verbs and relative pronouns that are not needed.

The sentences in this exercise are perfectly correct with or without the words and phrases that you add.

It is important that when you are reading a text in the IELTS Reading test, you are able to recognise that not all passive verbs necessarily look like passive structures.

Having been	that are	which was	who had been	will be

1. The briefcase _____ stolen from the car contained an important business contract.
2. Many of the websites _____ used most frequently by people generate millions of euros in advertising.
3. With my bags already _____ packed, I was ready to set off.
4. The paper will be published and the findings _____ discussed at next year's conference.
5. The identity of the people _____ arrested was not made public for several days .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 2

Read the information. Then read the article and choose the most suitable title.

Choose the title that best fits the whole text, not just a part of it.

Anyone who regularly uses social media will be familiar with that rather irritating sensation of seeing that all their friends seem to be having far more fun than they are. This could be particularly noticeable if you are sitting at home feeling bored while everyone else, it seems, is out partying or enjoying a glamorous holiday. Not fair, is it?

In fact, this might be just one aspect of a widespread and more ominous social phenomenon. Could social media actually make people depressed? A study commissioned by the National Institute for Mental Health has identified 'a strong and significant association between social media use and depression' in a sample of young adults in the USA. This established that the amount of time spent on social media sites, as well as the number of visits to the sites, correlated closely with depression.

Of course, the picture may well be more complex than this. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University has studied interpersonal relationships between both adolescents and adults. She acknowledges the powerful influence that social networks can have on their users, but says it may just be the case that 'people who are depressed use more social media sites'. In other words, it may be simplistic to conclude that one thing necessarily leads to the other.

As we all know, social media allows people to establish, re-establish and maintain social contacts very easily, with a minimum amount of time spent and at essentially no cost. Relationships can be kept alive with people who live on the other side of the globe, or with those who we rarely, if ever, see. On the other hand, social media can encourage feelings of isolation and, at times, inadequacy.

Naturally, everyone needs to sense that they are liked and approved of. Social media comes into its own here, with 'likes' being the currency of many social media platforms. Many people aim for as many as possible in order to enhance their self-esteem, but this of course is only a short-term boost to morale.

It is widely known that a weakness (as well as a strength) of the internet is that it essentially allows anyone to publish anything. If, like a substantial majority of people, you get your news from social media, then the chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news. And when it's all mixed in with reliable information from respectable and reputable media sources, few of us can really tell which is which with any certainty.

In fact, researchers at Columbia University, using their 'emergent rumour tracker', found that misinformation is equally as likely as genuine news to go viral. The phenomenon is by no means new. After coming under scrutiny, many internet giants began to review their policies with regard to the publication and subsequent removal of fake news. Facebook added a box at the top of its newsfeed to inform users how to deal with dubious stories that look as if they might not be true; if concerned, users can click on it and are taken to Facebook's help centre

LIVEWORKSHEETS

where they are told about various features frequently found in fake news items, such as misspellings and nonstandard onscreen formatting.

In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income, Filippo Menczer deliberately created a website that would computer-generate gossip about celebrities. This had no factual basis whatsoever, as a disclaimer at the bottom of the page pointed out. The articles also contained advertisements. Sure enough, at the end of the month, Menczer received a cheque in the post, courtesy of the adverts hosted by his page. This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.

Nowadays, this is well understood, and we have a whole new industry: fake news and digital misinformation. A lot of the work is done by bots – fake accounts created to look like real people, whose only aim is to generate advertising money. Yet, the mainstream IT industry is fighting back. Computer scientists at Indiana University have devised a program to identify whether the source of online content is a bot or a genuine human being.

Another area in which the internet in general, and social networks in particular, are a cause for concern is addiction. According to an article by O'Keefe and Pearson in the journal *Pediatrics*, 22% of teenagers log on to their favourite social networking site ten or more times a day. At first glance, this may not seem particularly problematic, as these ten or more visits almost certainly aren't going to have an adverse effect on the person's health, as can be the case with other addictive behaviours. And yet, it is now clear that people's relationships frequently suffer damage as a result.

We should also be concerned about the decreasing amount of sleep that heavy users of social media sites find they have time for, which is often inadequate for the body's systems. In other words, this can be detrimental to the well-being of a person. Often, people addicted to social media have a greater propensity to take risks, as compared with the population as a whole.

Essentially, there is no treatment for social media addiction and little understanding of how it can change over time. And how would it respond to therapy? At the moment, we have more questions than answers.

- The drawbacks of social media
- Three reasons not to use social media
- Why social media needs to be regulated
- Here's why social media can get you down

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 3

Complete the sentences about paragraph matching tasks in the IELTS Reading test. Use the words and phrases in the box.

g. A, B, C	longer section of text	paraphrase	specialist knowledge

1. You don't need to have any _____ about the topic.
2. The answer will probably be a _____ of the language in the text.
3. In the actual test, you just need to write a letter, _____, as your answer.
4. The answer will probably depend on a _____, such as a sentence, and not just on an individual word.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 4

Read the information. Then read the first part of the article again. Which paragraphs of the article contain the following information? Choose the correct letter, A–E, for each answer.

In these paragraph matching tasks in the IELTS Reading test, you don't always need to use every letter. And, it is possible to use a letter more than once.

The drawbacks of social media

A Anyone who regularly uses social media will be familiar with that rather irritating sensation of seeing that all their friends seem to be having far more fun than they are. This could be particularly noticeable if you are sitting at home feeling bored while everyone else, it seems, is out partying or enjoying a glamorous holiday. Not fair, is it?

B In fact, this might be just one aspect of a widespread and more ominous social phenomenon. Could social media actually make people depressed? A study commissioned by the National Institute for Mental Health has identified 'a strong and significant association between social media use and depression' in a sample of young adults in the USA. This established that the amount of time spent on social media sites, as well as the number of visits to the sites, correlated closely with depression.

C Of course, the picture may well be more complex than this. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University has studied interpersonal relationships between both adolescents and adults. She acknowledges the powerful influence that social networks can have on their users, but says it may just be the case that 'people who are depressed use more social media sites'. In other words, it may be simplistic to conclude that one thing necessarily leads to the other.

D As we all know, social media allows people to establish, re-establish and maintain social contacts very easily, with a minimum amount of time spent and at essentially no cost. Relationships can be kept alive with people who live on the other side of the globe, or with those who we rarely, if ever, see. On the other hand, social media can encourage feelings of isolation and, at times, inadequacy.

E Naturally, everyone needs to sense that they are liked and approved of. Social media comes into its own here, with 'likes' being the currency of many social media platforms. Many people aim for as many as possible in order to enhance their self-esteem, but this of course is only a short-term boost to morale.

1. feelings of jealousy experienced by social media users A/B/C/D/E
2. pros and cons of social media sites A/B/C/D/E
3. the difficulty of distinguishing between cause and effect A/B/C/D/E
4. how social media sites enable people to feel better A/B/C/D/E
5. a proven link between social media use and a psychological problem A/B/C/D/E

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 5

Read the first part of the article again. Then read the statements. Choose True, False or Not Given.

The drawbacks of social media

Anyone who regularly uses social media will be familiar with that rather irritating sensation of seeing that all their friends seem to be having far more fun than they are. This could be particularly noticeable if you are sitting at home feeling bored while everyone else, it seems, is out partying or enjoying a glamorous holiday. Not fair, is it?

In fact, this might be just one aspect of a widespread and more ominous social phenomenon. Could social media actually make people depressed? A study commissioned by the National Institute for Mental Health has identified 'a strong and significant association between social media use and depression' in a sample of young adults in the USA. This established that the amount of time spent on social media sites, as well as the number of visits to the sites, correlated closely with depression.

Of course, the picture may well be more complex than this. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University has studied interpersonal relationships between both adolescents and adults. She acknowledges the powerful influence that social networks can have on their users, but says it may just be the case that 'people who are depressed use more social media sites'. In other words, it may be simplistic to conclude that one thing necessarily leads to the other.

As we all know, social media allows people to establish, re-establish and maintain social contacts very easily, with a minimum amount of time spent and at essentially no cost. Relationships can be kept alive with people who live on the other side of the globe, or with those who we rarely, if ever, see. On the other hand, social media can encourage feelings of isolation and, at times, inadequacy.

Naturally, everyone needs to sense that they are liked and approved of. Social media comes into its own here, with 'likes' being the currency of many social media platforms. Many people aim for as many as possible in order to enhance their self-esteem, but this of course is only a short-term boost to morale.

1. People tend to use social media more when they are bored.
    - True
    - False
    - Not Given
2. Joanne Davila has conducted her research among different age groups.
    - True
    - False
    - Not Given
3. Joanne Davila's research contradicted the findings of the National Institute for Mental Health.
    - True
    - False
    - Not Given
4. Social media actually makes most people lonelier.
    - True
    - False
    - Not Given
5. Many social media users get long-lasting benefits from receiving 'likes'.
    - True
    - False
    - Not Given

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 6

Read the next part of the article. Match the sentence halves.

It is widely known that a weakness (as well as a strength) of the internet is that it essentially allows anyone to publish anything. If, like a substantial majority of people, you get your news from social media, then the chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news. And when it's all mixed in with reliable information from respectable and reputable media sources, few of us can really tell which is which with any certainty.

In fact, researchers at Columbia University, using their 'emergent rumour tracker', found that misinformation is equally as likely as genuine news to go viral. The phenomenon is by no means new. After coming under scrutiny, many internet giants began to review their policies with regard to the publication and subsequent removal of fake news. Facebook added a box at the top of its newsfeed to inform users how to deal with dubious stories that look as if they might not be true; if concerned, users can click on it and are taken to Facebook's help centre where they are told about various features frequently found in fake news items, such as misspellings and nonstandard onscreen formatting.

In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income, Filippo Menczer deliberately created a website that would computer-generate gossip about celebrities. This had no factual basis whatsoever, as a disclaimer at the bottom of the page pointed out. The articles also contained advertisements. Sure enough, at the end of the month, Menczer received a cheque in the post, courtesy of the adverts hosted by his page. This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.

Nowadays, this is well understood, and we have a whole new industry: fake news and digital misinformation. A lot of the work is done by bots – fake accounts created to look like real people, whose only aim is to generate advertising money. Yet, the mainstream IT industry is fighting back. Computer scientists at Indiana University have devised a program to identify whether the source of online content is a bot or a genuine human being.

---

establish that false stories are shared online just as much as true stories.
identify common characteristics of untrue news stories. know if a news story is true.
study the results. tell if an online text has been written by a real person or not.

1. Most people find it difficult to
   _____
2. Academics at Columbia University were able to
   _____
3. Facebook is trying to enable people to
   _____
4. Filippo Menczer created fake stories in order to
   _____
5. Staff at Indiana University found a way to
   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 7

Read the information. Choose the best paraphrases for the sentences from the article.

Being able to identify paraphrases is a key skill in the IELTS Reading test, so it is useful for you to practise this here.

It is widely known that a weakness (as well as a strength) of the internet is that it essentially allows anyone to publish anything. If, like a substantial majority of people, you get your news from social media, then the chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news. And when it's all mixed in with reliable information from respectable and reputable media sources, few of us can really tell which is which with any certainty.

In fact, researchers at Columbia University, using their 'emergent rumour tracker', found that misinformation is equally as likely as genuine news to go viral. The phenomenon is by no means new. After coming under scrutiny, many internet giants began to review their policies with regard to the publication and subsequent removal of fake news. Facebook added a box at the top of its newsfeed to inform users how to deal with dubious stories that look as if they might not be true; if concerned, users can click on it and are taken to Facebook's help centre where they are told about various features frequently found in fake news items, such as misspellings and nonstandard onscreen formatting.

In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income, Filippo Menczer deliberately created a website that would computer-generate gossip about celebrities. This had no factual basis whatsoever, as a disclaimer at the bottom of the page pointed out. The articles also contained advertisements. Sure enough, at the end of the month, Menczer received a cheque in the post, courtesy of the adverts hosted by his page. This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.

Nowadays, this is well understood, and we have a whole new industry: fake news and digital misinformation. A lot of the work is done by bots – fake accounts created to look like real people, whose only aim is to generate advertising money. Yet, the mainstream IT industry is fighting back. Computer scientists at Indiana University have devised a program to identify whether the source of online content is a bot or a genuine human being.

1. The chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news.
    - It's likely that you are irritated by what you find online.
    - You probably often see stories that are untrue.
2. The phenomenon is by no means new.
    - This has been happening for some time.
    - This is becoming increasingly common.
3. In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income …
    - In order to earn money when the stories reach more people …
    - In order to find out how easily these stories are shared and earn money …
4. This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.
    - Menczer found a way that he could make money without doing anything illegal.
    - Menczer was right that spreading untrue stories online could give him a better income.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 8

Read the information. Then answer the questions using words from the final part of the article. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Note that the instruction says, 'Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer'. This means that either one word or two words are acceptable – three words are not acceptable. As a general rule, write just one word if you can, and write two if both are necessary.

Another area in which the internet in general, and social networks in particular, are a cause for concern is addiction. According to an article by O'Keefe and Pearson in the journal *Pediatrics,* 22% of teenagers log on to their favourite social networking site ten or more times a day. At first glance, this may not seem particularly problematic, as these ten or more visits almost certainly aren't going to have an adverse effect on the person's health, as can be the case with other addictive behaviours. And yet, it is now clear that people's relationships frequently suffer damage as a result.

We should also be concerned about the decreasing amount of sleep that heavy users of social media sites find they have time for, which is often inadequate for the body's systems. In other words, this can be detrimental to the well-being of a person. Often, people addicted to social media have a greater propensity to take risks, as compared with the population as a whole.

Essentially, there is no treatment for social media addiction and little understanding of how it can change over time. And how would it respond to therapy? At the moment, we have more questions than answers.

---

1. What aspect of a social media addict's life can be harmed by their addiction? _____
2. What do many social media addicts not get enough of? _____
3. What are social media addicts more likely to do? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 9

The article has five paragraphs, A–E. Read the article. Which paragraphs contain the following information? Choose the correct letter, A–E, for each answer.

A Social media has come in for some tough criticism over the years, with a number of commentators believing that it prevents people from being able to successfully communicate face-to-face. There are those that argue that we are raising a generation who are unable to take things seriously and who through playing violent video games have become desensitized to cruelty and lack sympathy for anyone besides themselves. However, are social commentators and parents right to be alarmed by this trend? In the 1930s, there was panic that young people were becoming addicted to the radio, and in the 1980s, the advent of personal stereos meant there were those that panicked about the youth becoming increasingly isolated by wearing headphones all the time. Perhaps, therefore, we should remain suspicious of claims that social media and the wide use of technology is going to lead to a society where people lack the literacy skills of the past and cannot communicate and socialise effectively.

B Firstly, it is perhaps wrong to assume that socialising on the internet replaces real-life interaction. A number of studies have shown that people of all ages who are more active on social media tend to lead the most fulfilling off-screen social lives, too. Other studies have also shown that social media can be beneficial to younger teens who use it effectively to communicate with their friends and classmates. This can enable them, for example, to get better at using humour effectively with their peers. As children of this age don't have the opportunities to meet up with their friends, social media can be an effective way for them to stay in touch with their friends outside of class, strengthening these relationships. The study also illustrated that children in this age group tended to use social media less as they became older and were able to meet up with their friends in real life.

C Nevertheless, there are a number of other concerns that the rise of social media has led to. In the past, we didn't have the issues of a person's right to personal privacy that have arisen due to the increased importance of this phenomenon nowadays. However, a lot of the social media sites that younger people use often delete photos and messages quickly, and many young people have conversations and then delete their images and stories leaving no trace of what they have written on the internet. This is not to say, though, that younger people are always careful, but perhaps at this age it is important to remember that they are learning about the conventions of society, both online and offline. It might be that we worry more about what happens online as we don't understand it as well as they do, and it also doesn't help that the media is often full of scare stories, such as those about cyberbullying. However, although there have been some terrible stories about this, these incidents thankfully don't seem to be as widespread as we may be led to believe.

D We can perhaps say, therefore, that young people are still able to communicate effectively, as they are always communicating online. People can now communicate at speed and respond to their friends instantly. However, educators have become increasingly concerned that the use of shorthand and grammatically incorrect sentences has led to young people becoming less literate. Coupled with this, they are reading less because of the time that they are

LIVEWORKSHEETS

spending using gadgets and devices. However, studies by educators and linguists have shown that youngsters are aware of the importance of formality and know where and when to use formal language, and that they are not making any more errors than people of the same age 20–30 years ago. Young people between the ages of 13 and 16 also seem to be more industrious than a generation ago, with studies showing that students are now able to write essays that are on average six times longer and offer more complex arguments. Computers have opened up students' abilities to gather more information and explore different points of view and therefore write more confidently.

E In fact, the online world gives kids a lot of opportunities to be more creative, as well as to make more friends. For example, when Jenny Johnson, a 14-year-old from the UK, became obsessed with the TV programme *Teen Wolf*, she decided to start her own blog about it, which has been a huge success, attracting many regular visitors, and has helped her make friends with other school pupils all over the world. Perhaps we should therefore be encouraging children to use the technology they have in the best way possible, rather than telling them to put their gadgets down.

1. evidence of improved academic skills A/B/C/D/E
2. an example of someone gaining a large online following A/B/C/D/E
3. an important contemporary principle that wasn't a priority before A/B/C/D/E
4. ways in which social media can enable people to develop social skills A/B/C/D/E
5. examples of how teenagers can be responsible users of social media A/B/C/D/E
6. comparisons of social media use with other activities that became very popular in the past A/B/C/D/E

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 7: Exercise 10

Read the article again. Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

A Social media has come in for some tough criticism over the years, with a number of commentators believing that it prevents people from being able to successfully communicate face-to-face. There are those that argue that we are raising a generation who are unable to take things seriously and who through playing violent video games have become desensitized to cruelty, who lack sympathy for anyone besides themselves. However, are social commentators and parents right to be alarmed by this trend? In the 1930s, there was panic that young people were becoming addicted to the radio, and in the 1980s, the advent of personal stereos meant there were those that panicked about the youth becoming increasingly isolated by wearing headphones all the time. Perhaps, therefore, we should remain suspicious of claims that social media and the wide use of technology is going to lead to a society where people lack the literacy skills of the past and cannot communicate and socialise effectively.

B Firstly, it is perhaps wrong to assume that socialising on the internet replaces real-life interaction. A number of studies have shown that people of all ages who are more active on social media tend to lead the most fulfilling off-screen social lives, too. Other studies have also shown that social media can be beneficial to younger teens who use it effectively to communicate with their friends and classmates. This can enable them, for example, to get better at using humour effectively with their peers. As children of this age don't have the opportunities to meet up with their friends, social media can be an effective way for them to stay in touch with their friends outside of class, strengthening these relationships. The study also illustrated that children in this age group tended to use social media less as they became older and were able to meet up with their friends in real life.

C Nevertheless, there are a number of other concerns that the rise of social media has led to. In the past, we didn't have the issues of a person's right to personal privacy that have arisen due to the increased importance of this phenomenon nowadays. However, a lot of the social media sites that younger people use often delete photos and messages quickly, and many young people have conversations and then delete their images and stories leaving no trace of what they have written on the internet. This is not to say, though, that younger people are always careful, but perhaps at this age it is important to remember that they are learning about the conventions of society, both online and offline. It might be that we worry more about what happens online as we don't understand it as well as they do, and it also doesn't help that the media is often full of scare stories, such as those about cyberbullying. However, although there have been some terrible stories about this, these incidents thankfully don't seem to be as widespread as we may be led to believe.

D We can perhaps say, therefore, that young people are still able to communicate effectively, as they are always communicating online. People can now communicate at speed and respond to their friends instantly. However, educators have become increasingly concerned that the use of shorthand and grammatically incorrect sentences has led to young people becoming less literate. Coupled with this, they are reading less because of the time that they are spending using gadgets and devices. However, studies by educators and linguists have shown that youngsters are aware of the importance of formality and know where and when to use formal language, and that they are not making any more errors than people of the same age 20–30 years ago. Young people between the ages of 13 and 16 also seem to be more

LIVEWORKSHEETS

industrious than a generation ago, with studies showing that students are now able to write essays that are on average six times longer and offer more complex arguments. Computers have opened up students' abilities to gather more information and explore different points of view and therefore write more confidently.

E In fact, the online world gives kids a lot of opportunities to be more creative, as well as to make more friends. For example, when Jenny Johnson, a 14-year-old from the UK, became obsessed with the TV programme *Teen Wolf*, she decided to start her own blog about it, which has been a huge success, attracting many regular visitors, and has helped her make friends with other school pupils all over the world. Perhaps we should therefore be encouraging children to use the technology they have in the best way possible, rather than telling them to put their gadgets down.

can make people less concerned about the welfare of others
doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research
is known to have very damaging long-term consequences
is probably rarer than is widely believed
may be misguided
probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world
shouldn't be seen as a substitute for face-to-face socializing

1. It has been argued that playing violent video games
   _____
2. The use of social media sites to communicate with friends
   _____
3. Hostile behaviour towards other people online
   _____
4. The language used by young people online
   _____
5. Advising children not to use their electronic devices
   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS