



DATA PROTECTION

“Relying on the government to protect your privacy is like asking a peeping tom to install your window blinds.”

John Perry Barlow (1947 – 2018), American political activist and privacy campaigner

1. Data Protection Discussion

1. What is data protection? Why is it so important in the modern day?
2. What are the different types of personal information that exist?
3. Are we sharing too much information publicly these days?
4. How dangerous do you think it is to put personal information on social networking sites like Facebook?
5. What information have you seen shared on social networking sites that you wouldn't feel comfortable sharing yourself?
6. Are you sure all of your personal information is secure? How do you keep your personal information safe?
7. Are you always careful about what documents you throw away?
8. What personal information do you regularly give to companies or other organisations? How can you be sure they will keep that information safe?

2. Data Protection Vocabulary

- **data protection** (noun) – a legal requirement to protect personal information stored on a computer system.
- **biometric data** (noun) – information that relates to a person's physical or biological characteristics.
- **to hack** (verb), **hacker** (noun) – to gain unauthorised access into a computer system; a person who hacks.
- **to encrypt** (verb), **encryption** (noun) – to convert electronic data or communications into code that cannot be read by another person unless they have the encryption key.
- **VPN (virtual private network)** (noun) – an encrypted internet connection that keeps sensitive communications secure and prevents activity on the internet from being traced.
- **data breach** (noun) – the unauthorised release of information stolen from a computer system.

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. Every business needs to pay attention to **data protection** laws if they don't want to face hefty compensation claims.
2. **Hackers** released thousands of documents from Mossack Fonseca's computer system that showed the offshore bank accounts held by the world's elite.
3. If you have any files you don't want hackers to read, it's vital that you **encrypt** them.
4. In 2017, Equifax suffered a **data breach** which led to the social security numbers of 145 million Americans being made public.
5. One advantage of using a **VPN** is that you can set your IP address to another country and access the Netflix library of that country.
6. The new passport will contain **biometric data** including fingerprints and a retina scan to help prevent illegal migration.

Data Protection vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What do you know about the data protection laws in your country?
2. What kind of biometric data is stored about you?
3. What are some common reasons why people hack computers?
4. Is all the data on your computer encrypted? If not, do you think it should be?
5. Do you ever use a VPN? If so, why? If not, do you think you should?
6. Can you think of any major data breaches? What kind of information was released?

3. Video: Facebook's Data Scandal

You are going to watch a video by The Verge called "Facebook's Cambridge Analytica data scandal, explained."

Watch the video here: <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-data-protection/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Mark Zuckerberg responded to the data scandal after which campaign?
a) delete Facebook b) close Facebook c) end Facebook
2. Cambridge Analytica had worked on the campaign of which president?
a) George W Bush b) Barack Obama **c) Donald Trump**
3. Authorities in which other country are investigating the data scandal?
a) France b) Germany **c) the UK**
4. In addition to the actual user, Facebook apps allowed developers to access information on whom?
a) the user's family members **b) the user's friends** c) the user's colleagues

Sentence completion

5. By researching a user's likes, a company could begin to understand that user's **personality** in order to target them with political propaganda.
6. In 2012, Barack Obama's campaign created an app to collect voter data but told users what it was **doing**.
7. Once it became known what Cambridge Analytica were doing, Facebook demanded that they **delete** all the data they had collected.
8. Facebook made it too easy for developers to get **access** to users' data.

Short answer

9. Who expressed regret for their part in creating Facebook? **Former Facebook executives**
10. In which year did Facebook stop developers gaining access to users' friends' data? **2014**
11. After how many months of not using an app will Facebook cut off developer access to your information? **3**
12. What did Mark Zuckerberg make his personal challenge for the year? **Fixing Facebook's platform**

4. Data Protection Conversation Questions

1. How could criminals use your personal information?
2. What kind of personal information do websites collect?
3. How do you keep the information on your computer safe?
4. How often do you change the password on your computer? Do you ever use the same passwords for different sites?
5. What should you do if you found out your email, username or password had been subjected to a data breach?
6. Should personal data be registered when people vote to prevent election fraud?
7. Do you think your government takes data protection seriously?
8. How would the world be different if all information (either personal, corporate, or government) were made public?

5. Data Protection Writing Task

Write about your opinion of data protection. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- The kind of personal data that exists.
- How personal data can be misused.
- How to keep personal data safe.

Alternative exam practice question:

These days, people share too much personal information on social media without worrying about the consequences. What kind of personal data do people regularly share on social media? How might this personal data put people at risk?