"Everyone is living for everyone else now. They're doing stuff so they can tell other people about it."

Karl Pilkington, British TV presenter

1. Social Media Discussion

1. Which social networks have you joined? Which is your favourite and why?
2. What do you like most about social media?
3. What new features would you like to see on social media?
4. Do you share many things to your social networks? If so, what do you like to share? What do you like to see your friends share? What don't you like to see them share?
5. Has anyone liked your social media posts? How does it make you feel when people like your posts? Do you think people share things just for the likes? If so, why would they do this?
6. What do you think of people who post lots of selfies?
7. Have you kept in contact with people that you wouldn't have if there were no social media? How would you keep in touch with your friends without social media?
8. How has social media changed the way we live our lives? Are social networking sites changing our daily behaviour?

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2. Social Media Vocabulary

- **to go viral** (verb) – *to become popular on social media because many people are sharing it.*
- **to trend** (verb) – *to become popular or talked about on social media.*
- **(to) like** (verb, noun) – *to give a positive approval for a post on social media; a positive approval for a social media post.*
- **(to) troll** (verb, noun) – *to harass someone via social media, often anonymously or in a deliberately provocative manner; someone who trolls.*
- **meme** (noun) – *a post, usually an image that has a specific meaning, that is slightly modified then shared on social media.*
- **YouTuber** (noun) – *a person who makes online videos for their followers.*

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. **YouTubers** are increasingly filming themselves doing dangerous activities to attract more followers.
2. Online **trolls** posted hateful comments about the Prime Minister's daughter on social media.
3. The video of the President tripping over at the conference has **gone viral**.
4. I posted a photo of me as a baby and now it has over 300 **likes**!
5. All he ever posts on Facebook are cat **memes**.
6. The King's affair is **trending** right now; everyone's talking about it.

Social Media vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Have you seen any posts that went viral on social media?
2. What topics are trending right now?
3. What type of posts do you usually like?
4. Have you ever trolled anyone? Has anyone ever trolled you?
5. What are some of your favourite memes?
6. Do you watch any YouTubers?

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3. Video: Social Media & Loneliness

You are going to watch a video by CNN called "Can social media use cause depression?"

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-social-media/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found what kind of relationship between social media use and loneliness and depression?

   a) mutually exclusive *b) correlative* ***c) causal***

2. People experienced less loneliness and depression when they spent how long on social media per day?

   a) less than half an hour *b) less than an hour* *c) less than two hours*

3. How did Dr Jean Twenge feel about the new research?

   a) astonished ***b) unsurprised*** *c) alarmed*

4. What happened to teen loneliness and depression when smart phones became popular?

   a) it increased slightly ***b) it increased rapidly*** *c) it reduced*

Sentence completion

5. Teens and adults who spend more time on social media are more likely to be **lonely and depressed**.
6. Social comparison on social media can make people feel lonely and depressed because everyone else's life looks so much more **glamorous**.
7. People should not keep their phone in their **bedroom** at night.
8. People should **limit** their social media use to an hour or less per day.

Short answer

9. Some people have claimed that social media sites are designed to be what? **Addictive**
10. If people spend more time on social media sites, what do these sites make more of? **Money**
11. What can parents put on their children's phones to limit their use? **Controls**
12. What do dating apps place a lot of emphasis on? **Appearance**

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4. Social Media Conversation Questions

1. What are the worst things about social networking sites?
2. How has social media affected our relationships and the way we communicate with each other?
3. Has social media replaced courts to judge people? Is it 'trial by Twitter' that determines whether people are guilty these days?
4. How does social media affect people's mental health? Is it possible that social networking sites are making people feel lonelier? If so, how?
5. Has social media made society better or worse? Why?
6. In what ways could social networking sites be considered dangerous? What safety advice would you give to people who use social media?
7. Is social networking a new concept, or have humans always done this in one way or another?
8. How will social media be different in the future?

5. Social Media Writing Task

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

- How social media has changed behaviour.
- Whether it has made our lives better or worse.
- How you think social media will develop in the future.

Alternative exam question

Social media has given people the opportunity to connect with friends and other people from all around the world. Some people say this has had a positive effect on relationships, while other people say it has had a negative effect. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

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