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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/06/13

## Social Networking Today!

Today, let's talk about social networking. Many of us like to chat with each other using social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype or Viber. In fact, we can't seem to live without them! Why do we use them? Because we like to communicate, especially with our family and friends. It's also a good way to keep in touch.

Up till a few years ago we used desktop computers and laptops to communicate with each other. Today we still do; but increasingly we use mobile phones and tablets. The iPhone and iPad, as well as the Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets have helped revolutionise how we communicate with each other in many countries around the world.

Older people will tell you social networking is when you actually go out of your house and meet someone, like a friend, and sit down and talk to them face to face over a drink. These days, people's lifestyles have dramatically changed. Lifestyles have evolved. People are happy to chat to friends in front of their computer screen without leaving their room. Why not!

Other popular forms of social networking today include Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+. All are different. All continue to evolve. All offer their users 'updates' that can be downloaded, so you can communicate even more effectively.

Today, social networks continue to offer people ways of getting information out of countries when governments crack down on their people. Celebrities still tell you on their Twitter account that they've just made a cup of tea.

As for the future, it'll be interesting to see just how we'll communicate with each other...

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is social networking? What is your favourite social network? Why? Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Name three social networks
- 2) Celebrities still what?
- 3) Name the brands!
- 4) What have evolved?
- 5) Older people will tell you what?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name the older devices we still use.
- 2) What do many of us like to do?
- 3) What has dramatically changed?
- 4) What are 'updates'?
- 5) Explain the meaning of 'crack down'.

**Category: Lifestyle / Social Networking / Technology**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Social Networking Today! – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Social networking**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**Social Networking Today!** - *In pairs* choose three social networks from the article.

Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three reasons to use social networks. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three positive and negative points about social networks. Compare and discuss with your partner.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is your favourite social network? Why?
- 2) What is the worst social network? Why?
- 3) What social network do your friends use?
- 4) What would you do without a social network?
- 5) What three tips would you advise a newcomer to social networks?
- 6) How would you sell social networks to your friends to entice them to join?
- 7) Why do people use social networks?
- 8) Do you Tweet on Twitter?
- 9) Which type(s) of device(s) do you communicate with?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Chat FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Social networking today!*

- 1) Someone who likes to 'chat'.
- 2) A technology journalist.
- 3) Boss of Facebook.
- 4) A person joining the interview from another country via Skype.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* You are in an internet cafe. Start a conversation about social networking today. 5 mins.

### SPEAKING - DEBATE

*In pairs* – Student A thinks Facebook is best. Student B thinks otherwise – you think another social network is better. Explain why.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

Social networking – what you use

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) How useful are social networks?
- 2) What benefits do you get by using social networks?
- 3) Do you like chatting on social networks? Why? Why not?
- 4) Do you use a web cam?
- 5) Do you prefer to chat, speak, or both when online with your friends?
- 6) Which is the best social network?
- 7) Which is the oldest social network?
- 8) Have you managed to contact any of your old friends using social networks?
- 9) What business benefits are there for companies using social networks?
- 10) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Social Networking Today!**

Today, let's talk about social (1)\_\_. Many of us like to (2)\_\_ with each other using social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype or Viber. In fact, we can't seem to live without them! Why do we use them? Because we like to communicate, (3)\_\_ with our family and friends. It's also a good way to keep in touch.

Up till a few years ago we used (4)\_\_ computers and (5)\_\_ to communicate with each other. Today we still do; but increasingly we use mobile phones and (6)\_\_. The iPhone and iPad, as well as the Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets have helped (7)\_\_ how we (8)\_\_ with each other in many countries around the world.

Older people will tell you social networking is when you actually go out of your house and meet someone, like a friend, and sit down and talk to them face to face over a drink.

**desktop / networking / revolutionise / chat / communicate / especially / tablets / laptops**

These days, people's lifestyles have (1)\_\_ changed. Lifestyles have evolved. People are happy to chat to friends in front of their computer (2)\_\_ without leaving their room. Why not!

Other (3)\_\_ forms of social networking today include Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+. All are different. All continue to (4)\_\_. All offer their users '(5)\_' that can be downloaded, so you can communicate even more (6)\_\_.

Today, social networks continue to offer people ways of getting information out of countries when governments (7)\_\_ on their people. (8)\_\_ still tell you on their Twitter account that they've just made a cup of tea.

As for the future, it'll be interesting to see just how we'll communicate with each other...

**effectively / celebrities / evolve / screen / dramatically / updates / crack down / popular**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Social Networking Today!**

Today, let's talk (1)\_\_ social networking. (2)\_\_ of us like to chat with each other using social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype or Viber. In fact, we can't seem to live without them! Why do we use them? (3)\_\_ we like to communicate, especially with our family and friends. It's (4)\_\_ a good way to keep in touch.

Up till a few years ago we used desktop computers and laptops to communicate with each other. Today we still do; but increasingly we use mobile phones and tablets. The iPhone and iPad, as well as the Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets have helped revolutionise how we communicate (5)\_\_ each other in many countries around the world.

Older people will tell you social networking is (6)\_\_ you actually go out of your house and meet someone, like a friend, and sit down and talk to (7)\_\_ face to face (8)\_\_ a drink.

**over / many / with / about / because / when / also / them**

These days, people's lifestyles have dramatically changed. Lifestyles have evolved. People are happy to chat to friends (1)\_\_ front of their computer screen without leaving their room. (2)\_\_ not!

Other popular forms (3)\_\_ social networking today include Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+. All are different. All continue to evolve. All offer their users 'updates' that (4)\_\_ be downloaded, (5)\_\_ you can communicate even more effectively.

Today, social networks continue to offer people ways of getting information out of countries when governments crack down (6)\_\_ their people. Celebrities still tell you on their Twitter account that they've just made a cup of tea.

(7)\_\_ for the future, it'll be interesting to see just how (8)\_\_'ll communicate with each other...

**as / of / so / in / we / on / why / can /**

**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**Social Networking Today!**

Today, let’s talk about \_\_\_\_\_. Many of us like to chat with each other using social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype or Viber. In fact, we can’t seem to live without them! Why do we use them? Because we like to communicate, especially with our \_\_\_\_\_. It’s also a good way to keep in touch.

Up till a few years ago we used desktop computers and laptops to communicate with each other. Today we still do; but increasingly we use mobile phones and tablets. The iPhone and iPad, as well as the \_\_\_\_\_ and tablets have helped revolutionise how we communicate with each other in many countries around the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ you social networking is when you actually go out of your house and meet someone, like a friend, and sit down and talk to them \_\_\_\_\_ drink.

These days, people’s lifestyles have dramatically changed. Lifestyles have evolved. People are happy \_\_\_\_\_ in front of their computer screen without leaving their room. Why not!

Other popular forms of social networking today include Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+. All are different. \_\_\_\_\_. All offer their users ‘updates’ that can be downloaded, so you can communicate \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, social networks continue to offer people ways of getting information out of countries when governments \_\_\_\_\_ people. Celebrities still tell you on their Twitter account that they’ve just made a cup of tea.

As for the future, it’ll be interesting to see just how we’ll communicate \_\_\_\_\_...

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**WRITING/SPELLING**

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, list six popular social networks. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Social networking \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) I chat using \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) I prefer to use \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Social Networking Today!** Your email can be read out in class.

**GAP FILL READING**

- 1) networking
- 2) chat
- 3) especially
- 4) desktop
- 5) laptops
- 6) tablets
- 7) revolutionise
- 8) communicate

**ANSWERS**

- 1) dramatically
- 2) screen
- 3) popular
- 4) evolve
- 5) updates
- 6) effectively
- 7) crack down
- 8) celebrities

**SPELLING**

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) chat
- 2) laptops
- 3) communicate
- 4) networking
- 5) especially
- 6) desktop
- 7) computers
- 8) revolutionise
- 9) just
- 10) actually

**SPELLING**

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) lifestyles
- 12) dramatically
- 13) evolve
- 14) popular
- 15) updates
- 16) downloaded
- 17) effectively
- 18) information
- 19) celebrities
- 20) tea

Social Networking Today! – *10<sup>th</sup> June 2013*