

Skillful 2nd edition Reading and Writing, Level 2, Unit 1: Society

Lesson: Reading: Social Media Society

This lesson plan, based on pp. 12–13 of the Teacher’s Book, gives you tips on how to teach the lesson in an online/distance learning situation.

It is designed for live online lessons in a virtual classroom environment or with a video conferencing tool like Skype or Zoom.

Length: 45–60 minutes

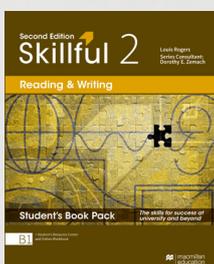
Learning outcomes:

- Students have read a text and identified arguments and opinions.
- Students have discussed a relevant and familiar topic and discussed their experiences and given their opinions.
- Students have practiced writing a balanced opinion.

Materials:

- Skillful 2nd edition Level 2 Reading and Writing Premium Student’s Book Pack, Unit 1, pp. 14–17.
- Skillful 2nd edition Level 2 Reading and Writing Premium Teacher’s Pack, Unit 1.

The resources above can be downloaded **here**



For further preparation, you could watch these teacher development webinar from the Macmillan “Teach from Home” webinar series <https://www.macmillanenglish.com/us/training-events/webinar-archive>.



Procedure:

Prepare a poll in your online classroom on which social media channels your students use, for example Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, etc. (If you're using Zoom or a similar platform, you could prepare this using the in-built poll functions.) Set this up as a multiple-choice poll, allowing students to select multiple answers (as they are likely to use more than one channel).

Open the online lesson room or software a few minutes early to make sure your camera and microphone are working correctly, and have the materials open in other windows (for screen sharing) during your lesson.

Follow the teacher's notes on pp. 12–13 in the Teacher's Pack. In addition, see the notes below for how to adapt your lesson for online teaching.

Stage 1	
Lesson warm-up and topic introduction	Start with a quick check-in. Ask your students to share something that's been going on in their lives recently. You can start so you can give them a model. Keep it short – around 20 seconds. If your group is too large to ask everyone, then just choose 3–4 students.
5 minutes	Tell your students that they're going to be reading, discussing, and writing about social media. In your online classroom, do the poll you prepared on which social media channels your students use, for example Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Review the results and highlight any surprises.
Stage 2	
A: Vocabulary Preview	Show exercise 1 (matching) on your screen and give your students a few minutes to note down their answers. Then correct the exercise with your whole group, asking different students to give each answer. Then use the same approach for exercise 2.
(p. 14, exercises 1 and 2)	Discuss a selection of the questions from exercise 2 with your group. If your online platform has breakout rooms, you could put your students in pairs for this short discussion activity.
15 minutes	
Stage 3	
B: Before you read + Reading	Write the first sentence of the text (below) on your screen or in the chat box, and ask your students to predict what the text will be about and the points it will make:
(pp. 14–16)	“Social media is changing how we communicate, how we do business, and how we live in society.”
15 minutes	Ask them to read the text quickly and check their predictions.



Stage 4	
Discussion	To make the most out of the online lesson environment and get your students talking, skip ahead to Section E on page 17.
10 minutes	<p>Ask everyone to look at question 1 in section E. In the aftermath of the Coronavirus situation you might prefer statement 2 below as an alternative to the one in the course book.</p> <p>Decide if you agree or disagree with each of these statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social media makes people feel anxious and depressed. 2. Social media is crucial for supporting people who feel anxious, depressed or lonely. <p>Lead an open and structured discussion around their feelings, experience and opinions.</p>
Stage 5	<i>(If your lesson is 60 minutes long, do Stage 5 below. If not set it for additional homework.)</i>
Post-reading exercises	Do section D (close reading). If you are doing this with the class ask students to complete the exercise individually. You can then go through as a whole class, inviting students to contribute either through the chat-box or as a discussion.
(p. 17)	
10 minutes	

Homework:

Write a short article (150–200 words) on the pros and cons of social media, specifically during the global coronavirus pandemic.

For asynchronous lessons with self-study tasks set by the teacher:

If you do not have access to a live lesson platform, here are a few tips for managing the lesson asynchronously:

- If you can, upload your introduction to the topic as a video. This will promote greater levels of engagement at the beginning of the lesson. If you are able to upload a video, you should also add instructions for all stages of the lesson.
- You can use online polls/surveys – for example, you can recreate the simple social media questionnaire as an online survey and send the link to the students.
- If possible, use a separate comment/discussion thread for each of the lesson sub-stages.
- Students can post answers to questions in online discussions.
- If students are able to post their homework ideas to an online chat with the Learning Management System, ask each student to comment on a least two other contributions.

