

Social networking



1 Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions. Then go to the Macmillan Online Dictionary www.macmillandictionary.com and check your answers by typing the words into the search box.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1 account | a | a picture to represent a computer user online |
| 2 avatar | b | the part of the Internet site where you can find general information about a person or business |
| 3 blog | c | a small face that you put in an email or text message to show how you feel |
| 4 chat | d | a way to send written messages from one computer to another |
| 5 email | e | an agreement with a social networking site or Internet provider to use their service |
| 6 emoticon | f | an instant exchange of written messages with someone online |
| 7 home page | g | an online diary entry to give news, comments, personal experiences or opinion |
| 8 post | h | on computers or the Internet, but not in the real world |
| 9 virtual | i | to look for information on a computer, especially on the Internet |
| 10 browse | j | to put a message on the Internet for other people to read |

2 Pre-reading

What do you know about social networking? Do the quiz. You can visit these websites to help you:

social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/young_times/article6747799.ece

- Social networking sites are virtual communities for people who ...
 - have common friends and interests.
 - have different friends and interests.
 - live in the same place.
 - want to meet face-to-face.
- On a social networking site, you can't ...
 - find out what your friends are doing.
 - look at other people's photographs.
 - make new friends.
 - shake hands.
- There is a social networking site called ...
 - Friendster.
 - Hi5.
 - Orkut.
 - All of these.
- The award-winning film *The Social Network* tells the story of ...
 - Bebo.
 - Facebook.
 - MySpace.
 - LinkedIn.
- Flixster is an online community dedicated to ...
 - books.
 - fashion.
 - films.
 - hair.
- On one of the most popular children's social networking sites, the avatars are ...
 - horses.
 - penguins.
 - snakes.
 - tigers.
- The minimum age for most social networking sites is ...
 - 13.
 - 14.
 - 15.
 - 16.
- LinkedIn is a social network which helps people find ...
 - holidays.
 - homes.
 - jobs.
 - family members.
- Habbo is a teenage social networking site where users are in a ...
 - hotel.
 - school.
 - university.
 - village.
- People post and share content with their friends on Facebook ...
 - at the reception.
 - in the living room.
 - on the wall.
 - under the table.

3 Vocabulary

Match the emoticons 1–8 with their meanings a–h. Then go to the Macmillan Online Dictionary www.macmillandictionary.com and check your answers by typing the words into the search box or by searching for *emoticons* on the Internet. Do you know any more?

- | | | | |
|---|------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | :-(| a | angry |
| 2 | >-@ | b | crying |
| 3 | :-O | c | embarrassed |
| 4 | :-) | d | sad |
| 5 | ;-) | e | smiling |
| 6 | :-\$ | f | sticking your tongue out |
| 7 | :'(| g | surprised |
| 8 | :-P | h | winking |

4 Reading

Do an Internet search for *social networking sites* and complete the factfile. You can visit these websites to help you:

- www.whoswatchingcharlottesville.org/social.html
- www.familysafecomputers.org/social.htm
- stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/media-literacy/medlitpub/medlitpubrss/socialnetworking/summary

SOCIALIZE!
Socialize.com is the place to find out all there is to know about social networking. Come on in and browse!

Lucy24
What do you know about social networking?
I'm making a factfile about social networking.
Can anyone help me with this information?

1 Which are the most popular social networking sites?	<i>Bebo, Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Flickr, Blogspot and Xanga</i>
2 What age groups are social networking sites most popular with?	
3 What types of people like using social networking sites?	
4 What types of people don't like using social networking sites?	
5 Why are online friends different to real friends?	
6 In which social networking sites can you create avatars?	
7 What information do personal profiles contain?	
8 Why do people want to have a lot of friends on social networking sites?	
9 How do users communicate with each other on social networking sites?	
10 How can you stay safe using a social networking site?	

5 Project

Choose a social networking site you are not a member of and prepare a presentation about it. Talk about these things:

- what kind of network it is (social, film, special interest, virtual reality, etc.)
- special features (avatars, settings, etc.)
- how users communicate (e-mail, chat, posts, etc.)
- the risks (open profiles, searches open to non-members, etc.)
- ways to be safe (age limits, privacy settings, etc.)
- what you like/dislike about it

You can find information at the 'home' or 'about' page of your chosen website and you can also visit these websites to help you:
www.digizen.org/socialnetworking
design4web.wordpress.com/2009/11/21