

Communication in the Digital Age

I am/am not on Facebook. I have _____ Facebook friends.

I get on Facebook _____ time(s) every day for _____ (time).

I have/don't have a Twitter account. I tweet _____ times per day.

I have/don't have my own blog/website. I follow _____ blogs daily.

I am/am not concerned about privacy and security when I use social networking websites. (Why?) _____

I have _____ email account(s). I receive about _____ email messages a day.



I send/receive about _____ text messages from my cell phone every day.

I like/don't like texting more than talking on the phone.

I have/don't have a cell phone that can access the Internet.

I use/don't use services like Skype or Google Talk.

I read/don't read paper newspapers, magazines, and books for pleasure.

I prefer/don't prefer reading online or on a Kindle, iPad, or smart phone.

I make/don't make friends on the Internet or in chat rooms.

53 ♦ Communication in the Digital Age

Lexical Challenges

an account
a blog
concerned
privacy
security
social networking
a message
to access
a service
to chat

Extension Activities

1. Discuss or write essays predicting what the communication of the 22nd century will be like or compare communication in the twentieth century with that of today.
2. Share the ways the students keep in touch with their friends and family in their native countries. Encourage students to share economical phone card or cell phone carriers.
3. Create an email directory so that students can communicate with each other and with their teachers.

More Conversation/Discussion

- ♦ What are the pros and cons of social networking websites?
- ♦ Is the use of websites like Facebook affecting human communication?
- ♦ Should parents supervise their children's use of social networking websites?
- ♦ What are the ramifications of using social networking websites?

Writing

- ♦ Use a free blogging website to create and maintain a blog. Share the website with other students.

Helpful Websites

- ♦ blogger.com
- ♦ englishbaby.com (offers a place to blog and practice English free; some services have fees)
- ♦ webopedia.com (a comprehensive list of text messaging and chat abbreviations)