



Connected but Still Alone?

(Basic, A-Level)

Marc Franco

Today, social media is a big part of life for many people around the world. We use social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to connect with friends and family. People can show parts of their lives. They share photos, stories, and ideas about their day, their job, or their home.

It is a good way to see what your friends are doing, even if they live far away. You can feel part of a community. You can also find a lot of new information and learn about other people and places.

This sounds good, yet there is another side to social media. Some people spend too much time on their phones. They might look at other people's lives and feel that their own life is not as good as everyone else's. This can make them feel bad and cause psychological problems, especially among children and teenagers.

So, it is important to remember that life is more than what you see on a screen. Social media can connect you to people and information, but you should also put your phone down. Go out, talk with your family, and play a game with friends.



Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions based on the passage. (See “Answer Key” for the answers.)

1. What is the central point of the passage?
 - a. People must stop using social media.
 - b. Social media has both good and bad sides.
 - c. Young people spend too much time on their phones.
2. Why do people use social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok?
 - a. To share information and connect with others.
 - b. To find information such as the news.
 - c. To play online games.
3. According to the information in the article, what can happen if someone uses social media too much?
 - a. They may lose their jobs.
 - b. They may have access to information that is not good for them.
 - c. They may have psychological problems.
4. What does Franco suggest people should do?
 - a. Franco suggests that people should spend time with others in real life.
 - b. Franco suggests that people should not use social media anymore.
 - c. Franco suggests that teenagers should not be allowed to use social media.
5. According to the passage, social media can help people in different ways.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Using social media too much can cause psychological problems.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. Using social media always causes psychological problems.
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. According to the passage, Facebook is better than Instagram because it has news articles.
 - a. True
 - b. False



Vocabulary Lesson and Quiz

Key Vocabulary List

1. **community** /kə'mjunəti/ (noun) • a group of people with the same interests.
*Example: It's nice to feel part of an online **community**.*
2. **connect** /kə'nekt/ (verb) • to join or link to someone or something.
*Example: I use my phone to **connect** with my family.*
3. **far away** /fɑr ə'weɪ/ (adjective phrase) • at a great distance; not near.
*Example: My best friend lives **far away**, so we talk on the phone.*
4. **important** /ɪm'pɔrtənt/ (adjective) • something that matters a lot.
*Example: It is **important** to put your phone down and go outside.*
5. **psychological** /ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ (adjective) • about the mind and feelings.
*Example: Feeling sad for a long time can be a **psychological** problem.*
6. **screen** /skrin/ (noun) • the flat part of a phone, computer, or TV where you see pictures and words.
*Example: You should not look at a computer **screen** all day.*
7. **share** /ʃɛr/ (verb) • to post something online for other people to see; to give something you have to others so that they can enjoy it too.
*Example: He likes to **share** stories about his life.*
8. **social media** /ˌsoʊʃəl 'mi:diə/ (noun) • websites and apps that let people share things and connect online.
*Example: I use **social media** to see photos from my friends.*



Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence using one of the words in the vocabulary list. Some words may appear more than once.

• community • connect • far away • important • psychological • screen • share • social media •

1. My brother lives _____, so I don't see him often.
2. It is _____ to sleep for eight hours every night.
3. I like to _____ funny videos of my dog on social media.
4. Instagram and TikTok are two very popular types of _____.
5. If your phone falls, you might break the _____.
6. Worrying too much can cause _____ stress.
7. This app helps you _____ with people that share the same interests.
8. Be careful not to _____ your personal information online.
9. Don't keep your phone in your pocket. You could break the _____.
10. I joined an online _____ for people who like to cook.



Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. b. Social media has both good and bad sides.
2. a. To share information and connect with others.
3. c. They may have psychological problems.
4. a. Franco suggests that people should spend time with others in real life.
5. a. True
6. a. True
7. b. False
8. b. False

Vocabulary Quiz

1. My brother lives **far away**, so I don't see him often.
2. It is **important** to sleep for eight hours every night.
3. I like to **share** funny videos of my dog on social media.
4. Instagram and TikTok are two very popular types of **social media**.
5. If your phone falls, you might break the **screen**.
6. Worrying too much can cause **psychological** stress.
7. This app helps you **connect** with people that share the same interests.
8. Be careful not to **share** your personal information online.
9. Don't keep your phone in your pocket. You could break the **screen**.
10. I joined an online **community** for people who like to cook.

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