

Open Gap Fill - Social Media & Technology

Year 7 | B2 Level

Instructions: Read the text below and fill in the gaps with ONE suitable word in each space. Think carefully about grammar, context, and meaning.

The Impact of Social Media on Society

Social media has become an integral part (1) _____ modern life, transforming the way we communicate, share information, and connect with others. (2) _____ the past two decades, platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have grown exponentially, attracting billions of users worldwide. One of the main advantages of social media is (3) _____ it allows people to stay in touch with friends and family, regardless (4) _____ geographical distance. Users can share photos, videos, and updates instantly, creating a sense of connection that (5) _____ have been impossible before the digital age. (6) _____, social media also has its drawbacks. Many experts are concerned about the amount of time young people spend (7) _____ these platforms. Studies have shown that excessive use can lead (8) _____ anxiety, depression, and sleep problems. Furthermore, the constant comparison with others' carefully curated lives can negatively affect (9) _____ self-esteem. Another significant issue is the spread of misinformation. False news stories can go viral within hours, (10) _____ it difficult for users to distinguish between fact and fiction. This has serious implications for democracy and public health, (11) _____ seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Privacy is also a growing concern. Many users are unaware of (12) _____ much personal data they are sharing and how companies use this information for targeted advertising. Some countries have introduced stricter regulations to protect users' privacy, (13) _____ as the European Union's GDPR. Despite these challenges, social media continues to evolve and shape our society. It has given (14) _____ to new forms of activism, allowing movements like #MeToo and Black Lives Matter to gain global attention. It has also provided opportunities for small businesses and content creators to reach wider audiences (15) _____ traditional marketing would have been prohibitively expensive.

Looking ahead, it is clear that social media will remain a dominant force in our lives. (16)

important question is not whether we should use it, but how we can use it responsibly and create a healthier digital environment for future generations.

Answer Key

1. **of** (part of modern life)
2. **Over / In / During** (time expression)
3. **that** (conjunction introducing clause)
4. **of** (regardless of)
5. **would** (would have been impossible - conditional)
6. **However / Nevertheless / Yet** (contrast)
7. **on** (spend time on platforms)
8. **to** (lead to)
9. **their / users'** (possessive pronoun)
10. **making** (making it difficult - present participle)
11. **as** (as seen during)
12. **how** (how much)
13. **such** (such as)
14. **rise** (given rise to)
15. **where** (where traditional marketing would...)
16. **The** (The important question)

❑ Tips for Open Gap Fill:

- Read the whole text first for context
- Look at the words before and after each gap
- Think about grammar (prepositions, articles, conjunctions, pronouns)
- Consider collocation (words that commonly go together)
- Check if your answer makes sense in the overall context