

1. Dating site : a website where people can meet in order to start a romantic relationship
2. log in : connect to a computer system by typing your name and password
3. overtook : performed better than someone or something else
4. hacked into : entered a computer system without permission
5. sign up : register on a website
6. online : via the Internet
7. launched : started (a new business or product)

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Facebook features

What can you do on Facebook? Match the features on the left with the functions on the right:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. send a friend request | a. chat with someone in real-time using text (3) |
| 2. receive a friend request | b. display a public message for your friends to read (5) |
| 3. send a message | c. give positive feedback about a comment (7) |
| 4. tag someone | d. label another person in a photo (4) |
| 5. post a status update | e. receive an invitation to be someone's friend (2) |
| 6. browse your news feed | f. remove a friend from your friend list (8) |
| 7. like a comment | g. see what your friends are doing on their profiles (6) |
| 8. unfriend somebody | h. start a personal page (where you can include your pictures, information about you, etc.) (9) |
| 9. create a profile | i. try to connect with someone who is not in your friend list (1) |

Now complete the dialogue below using the phrases above in the correct grammatical form.

Paul: Do you use Facebook?

Julie: Yes, everyday.

Paul: What do you use it for?

Julie: Well, I like to know what my friends are doing all the time so I often browse my news feed ¹.
How about you?

Paul: I only signed up ² about a year ago, and I haven't used the site very much.

Julie: Why not?

Paul: Well, usually lots of friends ³ from people I hardly know. I just don't see the point of it. receive request

Julie: Really? You don't have to accept all of them. It's great when you travel and you meet someone new. If you want to stay in touch, you can go on Facebook and talk to them ⁴. Of course, if the person becomes really annoying, you can always decide to unfriend ⁵ her.

Paul: Perhaps you're right. But I also don't like the idea that everybody knows what I'm doing in my life.

Julie: Well, you don't have to post updates⁶ all the time. That way, your friends won't see what you are doing on their profile walls. But if you want to contact one of your friends, you can always send a⁷ message. Only that friend will see your message.

Paul: I see.

Julie: Personally, I like it when my friends comment my posts⁸. The comment appears in their friends' news feeds.

Paul: Do you post pictures?

Julie: Yes, I always add new photos to my profile. And my friends often tag⁹ me in their pictures. It's great.

Which Facebook features do you use or not use? Why/why not?

I use all of them because that way I can be in touch with everyone in real time.

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Uses of social networks

There are many different reasons why people use social networks. Study the list below. Ask your teacher to explain any unfamiliar words. Can you think of any examples of websites which specialize in each of these areas?

1. Getting in touch with old classmates. Facebook
2. Friendship and dating. Tinder
3. Professional networking, job hunting and headhunting. LinkedIn
4. Learning foreign languages. Duolingo
5. Photo sharing and commenting. Instagram
6. Organising and sharing things on an online pinboard. Twitter
7. Connecting with travellers and local communities. Backpackr

Do you or your friends use any of the websites? Which ones?

Yes, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn

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Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below:

- You can be in touch with all friends in real time
1. What are the advantages of social networking? People always know what we are doing.
 2. What are the disadvantages of social networking?
 3. What kind of information are you comfortable displaying to the public? My pictures.
 4. What kind of information are you uncomfortable displaying to the public? My children and family.