

Listening skills practice: The Filter Bubble – part one – exercises

Listen to the speaker talking about a book called *The Filter Bubble* and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Preparation: gap fill

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

support	interact	log on	click on
download	keep track	appears	monitor

- You need to _____ to connect to a specific computer system.
- You can _____ some programs onto your computer for free.
- Cookies _____ of how you use websites.
- On social media you can easily see updates about the political party you _____.
- The police can _____ a criminal's activity on the internet.
- Personalised information _____ in your newsfeed.
- If you _____ the link you get taken to another website.
- I don't _____ with many people on the site.

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Everybody sees the same adverts when they are online. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. Websites and apps sometimes monitor the way we use them. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. A cookie can track your habits on a website. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. The speaker wrote a book called 'The Filter Bubble'. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. The speaker tells us which political party she supports. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. The speaker clicks more frequently on friends with the same ideas. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. Some of the speaker's friends had left the social media site. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. A website can decide which information you want to see. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the two sentence halves and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----|---|
| 1..... | The adverts you see | a. | can work out what we like. |
| 2..... | Internet browsers | b. | move around a website. |
| 3..... | Cookies keep track of how you | c. | are not random. |
| 4..... | The filter bubble | d. | were hidden from her. |
| 5..... | The speaker | e. | is like an ecosystem. |
| 6..... | Some of the writer's friends' posts | f. | noticed strange things on her newsfeed. |

Discussion

Have you noticed what kinds of adverts and information appear when you're online?

Are you happy with this?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.