



Friends

1

Reading

- 1 Read the title of the article. What is the article about?
 - a Teenagers and romance.
 - b Teenagers and blogs.
 - c Teenagers and clothes.
- 2 Skim the text and check.

Tune in to **READING**

Skimming a text
When you read a text for the first time, you want to know what it is about. Reading the text very quickly, without stopping, will tell you the general idea. This technique is called skimming.

Teens wear their hearts on their blog

For today's American teenager the internet is as much a part of life as fashion, TV or music. It's a place to meet up, to talk about life, to seek new friends and to get support. In fact, for the thirty-four million American teens registered at one blog space, *myspace.com*, blogs seem to have replaced diaries, phone conversations and personal contact.

Monica, a 17-year-old from Denver, uses her blog to communicate with friends and as 'a way to pour out my emotions. I find it easier to say things in blogs that I could never say in public,' she says. Blogs also provide the ideal medium for posting songs from the latest bands, for displaying photos or for relaying the trivial details of everyday life. Some teens use their blogs to reveal their most private thoughts, to detail their romantic exploits or to explore their deepest emotions. Innocent enough pastimes, you might think; yet law enforcement officials are wary. Online predators have tracked down careless kids who posted too much information about themselves. Parents, or at least those who actually know what their kids are doing online, are 'freaked'.

The risks don't end there. Recently, Monica found her younger sister and her dad reading her blog. 'I was upset. I feel like family and close friends shouldn't be reading my diary in secret,' she says.



'They should tell me. It's only fair. I don't snoop on them!' These days, she uses a popular blogging feature that allows her to restrict access to her *LiveJournal* blog to friends – in many cases friends that she has never actually met. 'I don't need to 'meet' them in the old-fashioned sense,' she says, 'writing a blog helps you realise that friendship can take many forms.'

Watch this blog space!

4

- 3 Are the sentences true or false according to the text?**
- The internet is less important to American teens than fashion or music.
 - Thirty-four million blogs exist on the internet.
 - All parents are suspicious of blogging.
 - Monica caught her sister reading her blog.
 - Anyone can read a blog if they have a computer connection.
- 4 Correct the false sentences.**
Example: 1 False. The internet is as important to American teens as fashion or music.
- 5 Answer the questions in your own words.**
- Why do some parents worry about teens using the internet?
 - Why was Monica upset when she found her sister and father reading her blog?
 - Does Monica think that web friendships are best?
- 6 Find words or phrases in the text to match these definitions.**
- help (paragraph 1) *support*
 - look for (paragraph 1)
 - putting on a web page (paragraph 2)
 - showing (paragraph 2)
 - suspicious (paragraph 2)
 - scared (paragraph 2)
 - annoyed (paragraph 3)
 - spy on (paragraph 3)
 - limit (paragraph 3)
- 7 Make a list of reasons for using the internet. Compare your list with a partner. Do you use the internet in the same way?**
- 8 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.**
- What's more important in your life: the internet, fashion, TV, music or phone conversations?
 - How much time do you spend on each every week?
 - Do you keep a diary? Why? Why not?
 - Do you tell your friends all of your problems?
 - Do you tell your parents and family all of your problems?

VOCABULARY



Pastimes

1 Which of these pastimes do you do? Add two more things you like doing in your free time.

- collecting things
- doing sport
- going out with friends
- going shopping
- going to concerts
- listening to music
- playing computer games
- reading magazines
- sending text messages
- surfing the internet
- visiting art galleries
- watching TV



2 Write about your preferences.

- I love...
- I really like...
- I don't mind...
- I don't like...
- I can't stand...
- I hate...

3 Do we use the gerund or the infinitive with the expressions in exercise 2?

4 Make six guesses about other students in your class.

Example: I think Pedro likes surfing the internet.

5 Check if you are correct.

Example:

A: I think you like surfing the net.

B: Yes, I'm really into it.

I don't mind it. / It's OK.

No, I'm not keen on it.