

1

Friends

Contents

Topic

Friends and pastimes

Grammar

Present Simple and Present Continuous

Vocabulary

Pastimes
Adverbs of frequency
Opposites
Describing looks and personality

Reading

Teens wear their hearts on their blog
Strategy: Skimming a text
Fine Tuning: *interested in / good at*

Listening

A radio interview
Strategy: Anticipating
Fine Tuning: Expressions of frequency

Speaking: Interaction

Conversations at a party
Strategy: Having a conversation

Speaking: Production

Describing friends
Fine Tuning: Pronouncing third person -s

Writing

An informal letter
Strategy: Preparing to write a letter
Fine Tuning: Capital letters

Reading (pages 4-5)

Teens wear their hearts on their blog



Aims

- to practise skimming an article to get the general idea
- to practise reading an article for specific information
- to extend vocabulary
- to get students talking about why they use the internet



Background information

The word *blog* is short for weblog. A blog is an internet space where people can post entries on a particular subject. Blogging started in the late 1990s and there are now millions of blogs on the internet, ranging from personal diaries to blogs about current affairs, music or science. In English we now talk about a *blog* (the internet space), a *blogger* (a person who maintains a blog or posts entries on a blog) and *blogging* (the activity).



Lead-in

Copy and distribute the following questionnaire or write the questions on the board to find out what students already know about blogs. Ask students to work in pairs or small groups.

BLOGS

- 1 What is a blog?
- 2 How many blogs are there on the internet?
- 3 What do you think these blogs are about?

www.sportsunlimited.wordpress.com www.therestisnoise.com www.cheapcooking.com

blogs.guardian.co.uk/news www.connectforkids.org/blog

- 4 What kind of blog would you visit or write?
- 5 What do we call a person who uses blogs and the activity itself?

ANSWER KEY

- 1 A blog is where people can post entries on a particular subject.
- 2 millions
- 3 sports / music / recipes and food / news / children and teen issues
- 4 Students' own answers
- 5 blogger / blogging

- 1 Students read the title. Elicit ideas of what they think the article will be about. Students read the options and choose one.
- 2 Read the **Tune in to Reading** box with the class. Ask them what kind of texts they skim in their own language (e.g. newspaper and magazine articles). Point out that we usually skim texts to get the general idea and to decide if we want to read in more detail. Students skim the article and then ask them to discuss with a partner what they think the main idea of the text is.
- 3 Students read the text again. Allow them more time as they will be reading for detail and not skimming. In pairs, students read the statements and decide if they are true or false.

ANSWER KEY

b

ANSWER KEY1 False 2 False 3 False 4 False (Monica caught her sister **and** her father reading her blog) 5 False

- 4 Go over the example with the class. Ask them to say where the relevant information is in the article (*lines 1-3*). Students rewrite the rest of the sentences. When you check their answers, ask students to say where they found the information in the article.

ANSWER KEY

- 1 False. The internet is as important to American teens as fashion or music. (*lines 1-3*)
- 2 False. Thirty-four million American teens are registered at one blog space. (*lines 5-6*)
- 3 False. Law enforcement officials are suspicious of blogging. (*lines 19-20*)
- 4 False. Monica caught her younger sister and her father reading her blog. (*lines 25-26*)
- 5 False. Anyone can read a blog if access to the blog is not restricted. (*lines 30-32*)

- 5 Work through the first question with the class. Point out that they will need to answer in their own words and not copy whole phrases from the text. Students do the other two questions.

ANSWER KEY

- 1 Some parents / law enforcement officials are worried because teens give a lot of personal information about themselves in their blogs and online predators can use this information to get close to them.
- 2 She was upset because she thinks it is wrong for them to read her blog. She thinks they should tell her. She says that she doesn't spy on them.
- 3 No, she doesn't. She says that friendship can take many forms.

- 6 Go through the example. To confirm their answers students should check their choice by replacing the word or phrase in the text with the synonym to see if that word fits the context.

ANSWER KEY

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 help: support | 4 showing: displaying | 7 annoyed: upset |
| 2 look for: seek | 5 suspicious: wary | 8 spy on: snoop |
| 3 putting on a web page: posting | 6 scared: freaked | 9 limit: restrict |

Ask students what they do with new words. Encourage them to have a special section in their notebooks for new vocabulary. Give them time to copy words from this activity into their notebooks.