



UNIT 1

In this unit, you will learn to do the following:

Think critically about social media and families.

Use vocabulary related to social media and communication.

Develop confidence when speaking in a group.

Express your opinion on topics of current interest.

Ask other people about their opinions.

Understand which words are stressed in a sentence.

FAMILIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Discuss the Topic

A. Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.

1. Which of the following social media sites do you use? Check all that you are a member of.

- Facebook Instagram Snapchat Reddit
 Twitter Tumblr LinkedIn other _____

2. How much time do you spend every day on social media?

3. What do you use social media for? To chat, to learn, or for other reasons?

4. Which social media sites do you think are useful? Which are less useful? Why?

5. How many people are you connected with on social media? Are any of them your family members?

B. Should young adults be friends with their parents on social media? Discuss this question with your class.

Develop Your Vocabulary

A. Work in pairs. Choose the best phrase to complete each of the following sentences.

keep an eye on | keep in touch with | check up on | get along well with | get in touch with

1. I am 20 years old. My mom and dad don't need to check up on me all the time.

I'm not a child. I can make my own choices.

2. Social media is a good way to get in touch with someone in an emergency, or to make plans for the weekend.

3. I go to college in another city. My parents use social media to keep an eye on me, to make sure I'm safe.

4. Do you get along well with your parents, or do you find it difficult to communicate with them?

5. When you go to live in a new country, it is important to keep in touch with your friends from home. Don't forget about them!

B. With your partner, match each word with its meaning.

Words		Meanings
1. post (verb)	b	a) name someone on social media
2. network (noun)	d	b) write on social media
3. status (noun)	e	c) put a photo or document on social media
4. tag (verb)	a	d) people you are connected with on social media
5. upload (verb)	c	e) your current situation; what you're doing

C. Tell your partner about the following:

1. How your parents check up on you (or, if you have children, how you check up on them).
2. A family member you get along well with.
3. Someone you have kept in touch with for a long time.
4. The most recent thing you posted on social media.
5. Something you have uploaded recently.
6. A time you were tagged by someone.



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> Unit 1 > Vocabulary

Build Your Knowledge

BEFORE YOU READ

This is Julia, nineteen. She is a university student who has moved away from home to go to university. Her parents now want to connect with Julia on social media. Should she accept?



A. Work in pairs. With your partner, list three reasons why Julia should be friends on social media with her parents.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Now list three reasons why this might not be a good idea.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

READING: PARENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

C. Work in pairs. Should parents be connected with their adult children on social media?
Read six young people's opinions on this question.

D. After you read each person's statement, write the person's name in the chart. The first is done for you.

I think it's fine to be friends with Mom and Dad on social media.	I don't know. I can see both sides of the argument.	I don't want to be friends with my parents on social media.
Diana Russell	Chad	Edward Millie Wendy



Edward, 20

I hate the thought of my parents following me on social media. I like to post what I think about the world, what I'm doing with my friends, pictures of nights out, and socializing. I don't want my mom and dad checking up on me all the time. My parents are from a different generation, and they just make negative comments about what I do with my time, how I dress, the music I listen to, and what my friends are like. It's none of their business! They don't accept that I am an adult and that I have my own life now.



Diana, 22

I used to dislike my parents seeing my social media posts, but I have a different attitude about it now. I understand that they like to know what I'm doing in my life. Also, they can get in touch with me in an emergency. I don't post anything that might upset them. I just post really normal material. They like to "like" my pictures and make comments, and why shouldn't they? They're my mother and father, and they know what's going on in my life. I have no problem with it.



Chad, 18

My mom heard all of her friends talking about being on social media, so she asked me to help her get started. She doesn't have much experience with computers, and she didn't have the skills to set up her own account, so I showed her how to do it. But then she said she wanted to be part of my network. I think she wants to keep an eye on me. I don't have anything to hide, but I really don't want my mom to see everything I post. I love my parents, and I feel really guilty that I don't want to be friends with my mom online! I'm not sure what to do!



Millie, 20

I get along well with my mom and dad, but they are very traditional, and they have firm ideas about what kind of lifestyle I should have. I have different ideas, but I also respect them. So I have two different social media accounts. I use one with my actual name where I post basic information, especially a lot of family photographs and good marks in school. Then I have another account with just my first name, and my friends know that's where I post more fun things like parties. I would never want my parents to see my "real" account.



Russell, 23

Last year I went backpacking in Europe for the summer. I realized that being on social media with my family was actually a good idea. My parents wanted to know where I was travelling and what I was doing, and it made more sense for me to post about my travels on social media so it was easy to keep in touch with them all the time. Sure, they might have seen a few embarrassing pictures, but the advantage was that they knew where I was all the time. Besides, my parents are quite modern; they are not easily upset by what I post.



Wendy, 25

The most embarrassing experience of my entire life happened because of social media! I told my parents I couldn't go to a family dinner because I had to study for an exam. The truth is, I wanted to go to a party with some friends. I didn't realize some of my friends were taking pictures and then posting them on social media, and tagging me by name. My dad follows me, and he saw the pictures! As you can imagine, my parents weren't very happy about how I had lied to them. I never want to be in that situation again.

AFTER YOU READ

E. Now, with your partner, decide whose parent is responding to each of the statements above. Use each name only once.

Edward | Diana | Chad | Millie | Russell | Wendy

1. I was very disappointed by Wendy's behaviour, but I understand what happened.
Young people need to be more careful with social media.
2. I wish Chad would trust us. We don't want to be controlling parents. We just want to keep in touch.
3. Russell likes to travel, and naturally, we worry about safety in other parts of the world. Social media is very helpful to us because we know he's okay and we can relax.
4. Edward is young, and young people sometimes make bad choices. We want to help our children to make the right decisions about who they spend time with.
5. Things were very different when we were young. Fortunately, Millie shares our values and is doing very well. We are proud parents!
6. Diana is an adult, not a child. We have a good relationship with all our adult children because we trust them. Trust is very important.



Share Your Ideas

Join another pair to make a group of four. With your group, discuss the following questions.

1. Look again at the six young people you met in Build Your Knowledge. Which person's opinion or experience is closest to your own?
2. What do you like and dislike about different forms of social media? Why do you think some are more popular with younger or older people?
3. Which of the following have happened to you? Share your experiences.
 - a) Have you ever posted something online and felt bad about it later?
 - b) Have you ever seen something posted online by a friend and felt angry about it?
 - c) Have you ever refused to be connected with someone on social media? Why?
4. Read the following statement from a parent. What would you say to this parent?

We miss our little girl so much now that she's away from home! We just want to keep in touch with her and make sure she's happy. We've always been so close since she was a child. We want to make sure we know when she's upset and needs support, but we also want to find out all the great things that are happening to her. We especially want to make sure we keep up with what she's doing at university in case she needs any help. Social media is such a great thing—no one has to worry about writing emails or making phone calls!

5. Do you take any steps to make sure you are safe on social media? If so, what are they?

Develop Speaking Fluency: Take Part in a Discussion 1

Express Your Opinion

If you are planning to study at university or college in an English-speaking country, you will need to take part in group discussions. It is not enough to learn information, memorize it, and repeat it on an exam. You will need to think carefully about what you have learned, and you will need to express your thoughts about it. There is often no "correct" answer.

STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Are you nervous about speaking in front of other students? Many students are. They are afraid their classmates won't understand them or might laugh at them. If you are a less-confident speaker, there are some strategies you can follow to build your confidence.

A. Work in pairs. Look at the following strategies to build your confidence. Decide whether you should or shouldn't do each one. Underline *Do* or *Don't* at the beginning of each sentence. Then, choose the best reason for your answer. One reason is extra.

Strategy		Reason
1. Do Don't wait a few weeks before speaking, so that you can become comfortable in the class.	c	a) No one will judge your use of language. Your classmates will be worrying about their own English, not yours.
2. Do Don't be a good listener.	i	b) No one will notice if you make a grammar mistake. The important thing is to make your opinion clear.
3. Do Don't plan in your head exactly what you are going to say before you speak.	g	c) The longer you wait to start speaking, the harder it will become. Don't wait until you feel confident; speaking will <i>make</i> you feel confident.
4. Do Don't be afraid to express an opinion that is different from other people's opinions.	e	d) If you ask someone to repeat, your classmates will think your English is weak.
5. Do Don't worry about having perfect grammar.	b	e) Everyone's opinion is good. There are often no "right" or "wrong" answers in group discussions.
6. Do Don't speak slowly.	h	f) If you aren't sure about something, there is a good chance your classmates will also not have understood.
7. Do Don't ask if you don't understand what someone is saying.	f	g) You don't have time to do this; discussions move too quickly.
8. Do Don't worry about what other people think about your English.	a	h) People often speak too fast when they are nervous. Your listeners need time to think about what you are saying.
d is extra		i) You will learn from the opinions of others. Show that you are listening (nod or smile), and don't interrupt.

STRATEGIES FOR EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION

B. Work in pairs. Read the following conversation. Then, find TWO ways the speakers do each of the following:

- express positive opinions
- express negative opinions
- say that they are not sure
- ask others what they think

Edward: So, Chad, are you ready for your big trip?

Chad: I am, but I can't believe this! Edward, my parents want to follow me on Instagram! I don't want them to see everything I'm doing.

Diana: Is that really so bad? I think it's the best way to keep in touch with them while you are travelling.

Chad: I think it's a really bad idea, Diana! They're going to worry about me if I post photos or write about stuff they think is dangerous.

Wendy: I can see it both ways. It's easier for you to let them follow you, so you don't have to worry about getting in touch with them every day. But you shouldn't be afraid of posting photos.

Russell: I like the idea of your parents following you on social media. When I was travelling overseas, my parents wanted me to email them every night! Sometimes it was hard to find Wi-Fi, and other times I was busy.

Edward: You know, it's not just your trip. How do you feel about them following you when you come back home?

Chad: Well, I finally have my own life, and my parents treat me like an adult. I don't think it's a good idea.

Russell: I think it's a great idea to be on social media with my parents. Maybe it sounds mean, but when they can see what I post, I don't have to get in touch so often. It's easier for me!

Millie: I have mixed feelings about it. I have two different accounts, one for my family and one for my friends. Sometimes it's hard to remember which is which, and how to keep it all straight.

Diana: So what do you think, Chad? What are you going to do?

Ways to express a positive opinion

1. I think it's a great idea.
2. I like the idea of ...

Ways to show that you're not sure

1. I have mixed feelings about ...
2. I can see it both ways.

Ways to express a negative opinion

1. I think it's a really bad idea.
2. I don't think it's a good idea.

Ways to ask about someone's opinion

1. What do you think?
2. How do you feel about ...?



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> Unit 1 > Strategies

■ Improve Your Pronunciation: Which Word to Stress 1

A. Say this sentence: I finally have my own life, and my parents treat me like an adult.

In English, not every word has equal stress. Some words are more heavily stressed than others.

Which word(s) did you stress in the sentence above? Did you stress *finally*, *have*, *own*, *life*, *parents*, *treat*, and *adult*? These are content words. **Content words** are nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. They give meaning to the sentence, and they are usually stressed.

Function words, such as pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and auxiliary verbs provide the grammar for the sentence. They are not usually stressed, except for emphasis.

B. Work in pairs. Practise saying the following sentences. Underline the words that you stressed.

1. I hate the thought of my parents following me on social media.
2. My parents are from a different generation.

3. I think she wants to keep an eye on me.
4. What do you think about getting an Instagram account?
5. We kept in touch by email when I was travelling overseas.
6. My parents can reach me quickly in an emergency.
7. Diana has over three thousand people in her online network.
8. I have mixed feelings about this question.

C. Listen to check your answers. Repeat the sentences you hear.



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> Unit 1 > Pronunciation

Bring It All Together

A. The following people have sent messages to their friends asking for advice. You are going to help them to solve their problems. On your own, read each message, and decide what advice you would give. Make notes in the space beside each problem.

My mom has just learned how to upload photos. She keeps putting photographs of me on social media, and these are really embarrassing. I'm talking about baby pictures where I have baby food all over my face, or pictures of me in awful clothes from ten years ago. She always tags me, so my friends have seen these pictures, and they keep laughing at me. I've asked my mom to stop, but she thinks these photos are cute. What should I do?

Laura, 23

I'm away from home at university. My dad sent my girlfriend a contact request, and she accepted. Big mistake! He then got in touch with her to tell her that I have important exams coming up, and she needs to spend less time with me. Of course, she's very upset. I've told my dad I'm angry, I'm doing really well in my classes, and I won't let him down. He just says I'll be grateful to him when I'm a successful doctor. Please help me!

Harry, 21

I get along well with my mom, and we're friends on social media. Every time I post a picture or a status update, she calls me. If I'm playing sports outside, she worries that I'm going to catch a cold. If I'm wearing a short skirt, she thinks I'm not dressed warmly enough. If I eat fast food, she writes that I need to eat better. I know she loves me and cares about me, and I don't want to hurt her feelings, but she's driving me crazy! Any advice?

Gabriella, 19

- ▶▶ B. Now work in pairs. Share your thoughts with your partner, and find out about your partner's opinions. Discuss your reasons for your opinions. Do you agree?
- ▶▶ C. Join another pair and share your opinions. In groups of four, try to reach a decision on what advice you will give to Laura, Harry, and Gabriella.

USEFUL PHRASES

Express a positive opinion

I think it's a great idea.

I like the idea of ...

Express a negative opinion

I think it's a really bad idea.

I don't think it's a good idea.

Show that you're not sure

I have mixed feelings about ...

I can see it both ways.

Ask about someone's opinion

What do you think?

How do you feel about ...?

HOW DID YOU DO?

Did you apply the strategies you have learned in this unit? Fill in the chart below to evaluate your own performance in this activity.

Strategy	Did I do this?		
	Yes	I'm not sure ...	No
I listened carefully to other students' opinions.			
I spoke naturally; I didn't plan my sentences in advance.			
I wasn't afraid to express opinions that were different.			
I didn't worry too much about small grammar mistakes.			
I spoke slowly enough.			



Strategy	Did I do this?		
	Yes	I'm not sure ...	No
I asked someone to repeat if I didn't understand them.			
I used suitable language to express my opinions.			
I used suitable language to ask others what they thought.			

Go Further



In 2012, an American student called Aubrey Ireland said her parents made her feel like a dog who was wearing a collar. A judge in a law court ordered Aubrey's parents, David and Julie, to have no contact with her.

A. Work in groups of three or four. Use the Internet to answer the following questions.

1. How old was Aubrey when this happened? Where and what was she studying?

She was twenty-one. She was studying Theatre at the University of Cincinnati.

2. What did Aubrey's parents do to her computer?

They installed tracking software, which gave them access to her social media accounts and email.

3. In what other ways did they try to control her life?

They made unannounced visits, and they accused her of drug use and mental illness.

4. How did Aubrey's parents explain their behaviour?

They said they were concerned for her safety.

5. What happened when Aubrey's parents stopped paying her university tuition fees?

She was given a full scholarship.

B. In your groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Aubrey's parents were paying for her education. Does that give them a good reason to follow her activities? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think Aubrey's relationship with her parents is like today?
3. What would you have done in Aubrey's situation?