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Online Socialising 网络社交

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I can't imagine the world without an internet because there's so many great things you can do on it and there's not really any other way to get that much information.

Everything I do is online.

Yang Li: 大家好我是杨莉。欢迎网上收听 BBC 英语教学推出的专题系列 - 网络生活 My Internet.

Diarmuid: Hi I'm Diarmuid. In this series we are exploring the role of the internet in our lives.

Yang Li: We are talking with people from all walks of life to find out what the internet means to them. 互联网对他们的意义是什么?

Diarmuid: Today we will be asking a group of university students to share with us their experiences of online socialising.

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Hi, I'm Kirsty Major, I'm 21 and a student at the LSE.

Hi, my name's Daya, I'm a Politics and Economics student in my third year and I'm 22.

Hi, my name's Phillip, I'm a Music student in my first year and I'm 21.

Hi my name's Nikhil Sharma, I'm a first year Computing and Information Systems student.

Hi, my name's Tom Chambers. I'm a student in London. I study Politics.

Li: Shall we begin from you?

Tom: When I was younger I was a bit less outgoing so I didn't really chat to people at school or in my village, so it was really useful to connect to people around the world who I shared interests with. I used to have an interest in Photoshop and it was good to be able to share digital images with them around



the world, cos there were lots of other people who didn't go out lots as well so it was nice to talk to them.

Li: Do you find that experience rewarding?

Tom: Yes it was very rewarding. I actually met one of my best friends online. We both posted on a forum together and we started chatting on msn messenger and we just became really good friends and then I ended up going to visit him. And that's a really positive experience I've had from the internet.

Kirsty: I use a website called Couch Surfing, which I did in the past when I was travelling, and it was a way for me to not stay in hotels or hostels, I just stayed with people by getting in touch with them through the internet and I made some amazing friends through that. So that's one example of one of the amazing things on the internet.

Yang Li: Excellent. How about you Nikhil?

Nikhil: Yeah, facebook's good because you can connect with all your friends from primary school, secondary school, connect with your family. I recently just found my cousin online and before, we couldn't really talk, we just talked on the phone, but now we can talk nearly all the time. We're able to organise maybe get-togethers whenever we can meet up. You can do the same with friends, you can organise big events, whereas before you wouldn't really be able to unless you had everyone's contact details, you just find them on Facebook and now you're able to do that, so yeah it's quite good.

Diarmuid: Here I'd like to draw your attention to the use of the word *whereas*. What does it mean? Well, we use it to compare or contrast something with something else.

Yang Li: *Whereas* 是很有用的联结词，用来转换语气做对比和对照。现在可以通过互联网来组织大型活动，而过去则不行。

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You can organise big events, whereas before you wouldn't really be able to unless you had everyone's contact details, you just find them on Facebook and now you're able to do that.

A day offline is a day without sunshine.

Everything I do is online. A day offline is a day without sunshine.

Yang Li: Next we will hear from Daya about her experience.

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Daya: I definitely, I don't Twitter, but I definitely use Facebook and I absolutely love it. I can talk to everyone around the – globally – friends and family that are away, far away, and sort of geography hasn't become a problem any more. We don't have to worry about distance any longer. It's definitely fun, you can have events you can put out there and have everybody come. You can create your own



movements on Facebook, for instance, if there's something you feel passionate about you can have a petition signed. It's fun – it's definitely fun.

Diarmuid: Here we have heard the same ideas expressed in a different way. She said geography hasn't become a problem any more. We don't have to worry about distance any longer. Geography vs. distance, any more vs. any longer.

Yang Li: 讲英语的时候如何丰富多彩呢？这就是一个很好的例子，第一句话里用了 **geography** 地理，第二句话里用了 **distance** 距离来表达类似的意思。后面用了 **any more**，接着又用了 **any longer**。

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Daya: Geography hasn't become a problem any more. We don't have to worry about distance any longer.

Phillip: I'd like to add on that, my parents live in a different country, they live in Cyprus, so without Facebook I probably wouldn't be able to stay in contact with them as much as I can.

Diarmuid: Another language tip is how to challenge and how to disagree in a natural conversation. Listen to Li's question and how Phillip responded:

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Phillip: My parents live in a different country, they live in Cyprus, so without Facebook I probably wouldn't be able to stay in contact with them as much as I can.

Li: How about telephones? In the past we used to speak on the phone.

Phillip: Yeah, you can call up, but you can only stay on the phone for 30 minutes or 40, they're very expensive. And it's much cheaper to be able to write something instead, send an email, and with all the pictures that you put on, and videos, you can keep in contact with everyone and show them what you're doing.

Diarmuid: Philip didn't agree with Li obviously but he didn't just say no I don't agree. That's too abrupt. What he did was giving a bit of comparison. One is very expensive and the other is much cheaper. Listen again.

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Li: How about telephones? In the past we used to speak on the phone.

Phillip: Yeah, you can call up, but you can only stay on the phone for 30 minutes or 40, they're very expensive. And it's much cheaper to be able to write something instead, send an email, and with all the pictures that you put on, and videos, you can keep in contact with everyone and show them what you're doing.



Li: That was Phillip, comparing the use of the internet and telephones. At this point Daya wants to add something.

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Daya: You mentioned telephones. On the internet, you have now a telephone service, where you're not holding something to your ear, but having said that you have Skype and VOIP which gives you this telephone communicating, where you can have a camera on, so you can see your friends and family at the same time communicate vocally. So my sister who's away, she's an overseas lecturer, I speak to her nearly every day, every evening, with the camera on, and it's exactly like she's in my living room and we just have a good chit chat and it's great.

Diarmuid: Daya mentioned Skype and VOIP which is an acronym that stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol. It's a type of phone service using the internet so it's free to call people.

Yang Li: Voice Over Internet Protocol 就是网络电话; acronym 就是缩写。

Diarmuid: The internet has made the world smaller.

Yang Li: We connect to people from around the world instantly.

Diarmuid: Next week we discuss online research. Is it good or bad?

Yang Li: Join us again at www.bbcukchina.com. Bye bye.

Diarmuid: Bye bye.