

25. Discuss in groups about the following issues:

Sherry Turkle, in her talk, says: "We are getting used to a new way of being alone together". What does she mean? (Suggested answer)

She means that, although we want to be together with other people, we also want to focus our attention elsewhere and specifically on the information which interests us. Consequently, despite the presence of other people around us, we are frequently left alone with our thoughts or focused elsewhere, not really communicating with them. Thus, we may be physically together but, in fact, mentally we are in a kind of isolation – not connected with them.

26. Look at the picture and the quote. Then do the tasks below.

(Suggested answers)

Brainstorm five reasons why the world is made more transparent with social media:

- It is more difficult to conceal the truth (news, public documents and sometimes even personal documents may circulate all over the world).
- Information is readily available to everyone with an access to a computer and an Internet connection.
- Public figures and even companies and government can be exposed much more easily and they can be held accountable for their actions.
- Proper and/or moral behaviour is more easily acknowledged and rewarded.
- It is much easier to exchange ideas.

What does Zuckerberg mean by power?

- Information and knowledge equals power in the digital age
- People can influence other people's lives easily and in a more straightforward manner
- Anybody can keep the information they need and discard the rest
- People can quickly and easily organise themselves in groups or form coalitions without the need of a political party or a leader
- There are much more options available to people for shopping, entertainment etc.

29. Discuss the following issues.

(Suggested answers)

✓ **To what extent have social media changed our lives?**

- They have broken down barriers among countries and people
- It is easier to express ourselves and reach a greater audience
- We can reunite with people from our past we had lost contact with (e.g. old classmates)
- We can exchange news, ideas, opinions, experiences, knowledge
- We can be informed about almost anything almost immediately
- People can pursue their interests, as there are groups for almost any kind of hobby, activity etc
- People can promote their ideas, their business, their art work much faster, more easily and without constraints.

✓ **How can we prevent the negative effects of social media on our life?**

- By having faith and trust in our family and friends
- By talking with them regularly and openly
- By using them in moderation, because they are time-consuming and addictive
- By hanging out with our friends as much as possible seeking real communication
- By exercising regularly and sleeping enough
- By dealing with every piece of information we see online critically

30. Organize a debate on the following topic. (Suggested answers and prompts for discussion)

Social networks make us more antisocial because:	Social networks do not make us more antisocial because:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They make us avoid physical contact, which is extremely important in human relations ▪ They are addictive (people always check their phones) ▪ They cut as off real life ▪ They are uncontrollable because everyone can write whatever they want, causing harm to others (e.g. fake news). So, people are made vulnerable to dangerous ideas ▪ They are especially dangerous for teenagers, because they can assist potential stalkers, bullies or harassers ▪ They consume a lot of time in our lives, which could be used more creatively ▪ They may cause anxiety and stress and may lead to sleep deprivation or even more serious situations ▪ They help many companies promote their products, which leads to consumerism ▪ They lead to sedentary life ▪ They serve as substitutes for real-world communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They can help us find new friends, keep in touch or reunite with old ones. ▪ They help us be informed, updated ▪ They help us express our ideas, opinions, beliefs and reach a wider audience ▪ Our voice can be heard over the barriers of the place we live, in other countries or even continents ▪ We can interact with other people and prepare ourselves for real-world interaction ▪ They help us relax after work or school ▪ They fill people’s time with something interesting ▪ They help small companies or individuals promote their products, which can be a positive thing ▪ People can pursue their interests more easily and they are provided with more options ▪ They serve as assistance for real-world communication

31. Read the rubric and then do the tasks.

1. **Key words:** social networking, impact on relationships, change, quality
2. **Register:** formal
3. **Paragraphs:** 4: Introduction - Advantages - Disadvantages [or vice versa] - Conclusion
4. **Main points/ideas:** You can refer to Activity 30 for some ideas

32. Add the following linking words and phrases in the above list next to the correct categories.

- There are a number of arguments against** → presenting arguments against
- Consequently** → Expressing results/consequences
- On the other hand** → Expressing opposing viewpoints / showing contrast
- A serious drawback** → introducing disadvantages, presenting arguments against
- As a result** → Expressing results/consequences
- There are a number of benefits for** → introducing advantages, presenting arguments for,
- Furthermore** → Listing viewpoints, giving examples
- What is more** → Listing viewpoints, giving examples
- Particularly/in particular** → Justifying, expressing reasons, giving examples
- All things considered** → Concluding
- As far as I am concerned** → Expressing reasons, introducing advantages, introducing disadvantages, presenting arguments for, presenting arguments against
- This is due to the fact** → Justifying
- Nonetheless** → Expressing opposing viewpoints / showing contrast
- Notwithstanding** → Expressing opposing viewpoints / showing contrast