

Fifteen minutes of fame

1 Language in use: Social media addicts 1

Read the text about social media addicts. Some words are missing. Choose the correct word (A–L) for each gap (1–9). There are two extra words that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

We are the zombie generation, and I'm not talking about shows like *The Walking Dead*. I'm talking about the living, technology-addicted ... (0) that we have become.

How many times do we see people constantly looking down at their ... (1)? If you have not noticed this, you are quite possibly one of the students who I'm talking about. We all do it. We constantly check our Facebooks, read a text, look at an ... (2) or play a game. It seems that otherwise, we do not know what to do with these things we call hands. Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to attack ... (3) media altogether. Like everything in life, it does have its benefits. However, too much of a good thing can never be perfect.

Love it or hate it – depending on whom you ask it is either the best thing that has ever happened or a thing to hate. There are two extremes. It is a fact, however, that social networking has forever ... (4) our society; it connects cities, states and even countries. It is rapidly changing the way we interact on a day-to-day basis. And whether you like it or not, it is here to stay. For those of you who are social addicts, or even just mobile phone addicts, can you remember the last time you put your phone down to talk to a stranger at a bus stop? Do you ever take a moment of peace to look around and take in the day?

Social networking has grown so fast in the past decade and has nearly doubled in ... (5) in the last five years. In 2008, 26 per cent of adults used social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Tumblr. This number enormously ... (6) through the year 2011 when 47 per cent of adults used social networking sites. People in favour of these sites argue that social networking is good for more communication with family members and friends across the globe or the sharing of ideas between individuals thousands of miles away. On the contrary, opponents of social networking sites say that they make face-to-face ... (7) more difficult, are a waste of time and contribute to the rise in ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

Regardless of which side you choose, social media is one of the largest news sources – 27.8 per cent of Americans look at social media sites for news compared to 28.8 per cent relying on a traditional ... (8). As college students, here is some food for thought: Did you know that students using social networking sites while studying scored 20 per cent lower on tests and exams than students who did not? Along with that, students who are regular users of social ... (9) had an average mark of 3.06 versus the 3.82 average of the students who did not use social networking sites.

So next time you reach into your pocket, resist the wish to grab your phone. Take the time to smell the roses. Fight the desire to log onto Instagram when you are studying, and think before you tweet.

A	addicts	F	generation	K	social	0	F ✓	5	
B	app	G	increased	L	users	1		6	
C	attacked	H	networking			2		7	
D	changed	I	newspaper			3		8	
E	communication	J	phones			4		9	

2 Language in use: Social media addicts 2

Read the text about social media addicts. Some words are missing. Complete the text by writing one word for each gap (1–10) in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

We are the zombie generation, and I'm not talking about shows like *The Walking Dead*. I'm talking about the living, technology-addicted generation that we ... (0) become.

How many times do we see people constantly looking down at their ... (1)? If you have not noticed this, you are quite possibly one of the students who I'm talking about. We all do it. We constantly check our Facebooks, read a text, look at an app or play a ... (2). It seems that otherwise, we do not know what to do with these things we call hands. Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to attack social ... (3) altogether. Like everything in life, it does have its benefits. However, too much of a good thing can never be perfect.

Love it or hate it – depending on whom you ask it is either the best thing that has ever happened or a thing to hate. There are two extremes. It is a fact, however, that social networking has forever ... (4) our society; it connects cities, states and even countries. It is rapidly changing the way we interact on a day-to-day basis. And whether you like it or not, it is here to stay. For those of you who are social addicts, or even just mobile ... (5) addicts, can you remember the last time you put your phone down to talk to a stranger at a bus stop? Do you ever take a moment of peace to look around and take in the day?

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0 have ✓

- | | | | |
|---|-------|----|-------|
| 1 | _____ | 6 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | 7 | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | 8 | _____ |
| 4 | _____ | 9 | _____ |
| 5 | _____ | 10 | _____ |

Key**1** Language in use: Social media addicts 1

- 0–F: generation
- 1–J: phones
- 2–B: app
- 3–K: social
- 4–D: changed
- 5–L: users
- 6–G: increased
- 7–E: communication
- 8–I: newspaper
- 9–H: networking

Not used: A (addicts), C (attacked)

2 Language in use: Social media addicts 2

- 0: have
- 1: phones
- 2: game
- 3: media
- 4: changed
- 5: phone
- 6: users
- 7: year
- 8: communication
- 9: newspaper
- 10: networking