

Oversharing and your digital footprint

What is oversharing? Listen to some teenagers talk about it in this video. Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–j next to the numbers 1–10.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1..... to edit | a. a saved image of what is on a computer or phone screen |
| 2..... significant | b. to make changes |
| 3..... a finsta | c. to be unable to change something |
| 4..... a spam account | d. important |
| 5..... to be stuck with something | e. a fake Instagram account (a combination of the words 'fake' and 'Instagram') |
| 6..... a screenshot | f. a secondary social media or email account that you use for posting silly or random things |
| 7..... to take something down | g. careful, not taking any risks |
| 8..... to put something up | h. to post something on the internet |
| 9..... to scrutinise | i. to remove or delete something from the internet |
| 10..... cautious | j. to examine something very carefully |

1. Check your understanding: grouping

Write the tips in the correct group.

make your account public and say where you live.	be cautious with what you post.	post all the time just to please other people.
be aware that your posts are going to be there forever.	remember that people can take screenshots of your posts, or save and edit them.	share too much of your personal life with a lot of people.

You should ...	You shouldn't ...

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the two parts of the sentences and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- | | | | |
|--------|---|----|--|
| 1..... | Having a lot of people see your posts can be | a. | everyone is going to like you. |
| 2..... | If you're a teenager, you're going to make | b. | how other people view you. |
| 3..... | Oversharing is putting too much of your personal life | c. | kind of scary. |
| 4..... | What you share is going to affect | d. | it can be there forever. |
| 5..... | Just because you post all the time doesn't mean that | e. | bad decisions sometimes. |
| 6..... | Once you put something online, | f. | in front of a wide audience of people. |

Discussion

Do some people post too often and share too much personal information? What do you do to stay safe on social media?

Transcript:

The idea of, you know, posting and have a lot of people see it can definitely be kind of scary. You know, if you're a teenager, you're going to make bad decisions sometimes.

They can screenshot it, they can do so many things to save that and they can edit it in ways that you won't want them to.

Whether or not you think it'll go away, it's there. Anything you post online, you're stuck with. Oversharing to me is ... putting too much of your personal life in front of a wide audience of people.

Posting something for the sake of showing that you're there and maybe not because you're actually having that great of a time.

Posting about things that people don't necessarily think are significant, but they're just kind of posting to be posting.

What you share and how often you share is going to affect the way that somebody views you. Just because I'm gonna post all the time, that doesn't mean that you're going to get all the attention. That doesn't mean that everybody's gonna like you.

For example, people have, like, finstas where they ... or spam accounts where they just, like, post random stuff and sometimes they get too personal with what ... with what they're talking about on there.

Things that are meant to be texted one-to-one, people will tend to post online so 50 other people can see their plans for tomorrow or the next weekend. You could be doing something, like, that could potentially endanger yourself by making your account public and saying too much about where you live or who you are.

When I'm in, like, a cool location, and I want to show everybody where I am, but most of the time I'll just tag where I am on like a Snapchat story so people can know.

So once you put something online, it can be there forever because people might take screenshots, they might record it, they might save it.

I don't think, I don't think people don't realise that it's going to be there forever. I think they just don't care. A lot of people have this mentality of, like, 'What I'm doing is very insignificant. Why is anyone gonna care about this?'

You should be cautious of what you post. You'll post your pictures and think, like, 'OK, nobody, nobody's seeing me, nobody's screenshotted me, nobody doing nothing', because people are doing that. You're just not gonna know.

Your Snapchats, despite the fact that they only last, I don't know, four to eight seconds, they're still there. Your Instagram stories that go away after 24 hours, they're still there.

Anything that is posted, anything that's up, no matter what happens, even if you leave it up for a minute and take it down, it's there as soon as you put it up there.

No one's going to scrutinise everything that you say the same way that you might.

You are not obliged to post every second of your life in order to please what you might seem is the majority of people. So when you feel like you have to post all the time, when you feel like you have to do this in order to get fame and attention, you don't. It's not your job.

That's something you always have to be thinking about: what do you want people to remember you on social media as?