

Safer on the Internet

In this unit you are going to

- talk about your online behaviour (*Speaking A2/B1*)
- give a presentation on Internet safety (*Speaking B1*)
- summarise the most important information from an article (*Speaking B1*)
- write a blog comment on teenagers and their attitudes towards privacy on the Internet (*Writing B1*)
- read an article on Internet safety tips (*Reading B1*)
- listen to a talk by an IT specialist on password safety (*Listening B1*)
- practise trouble-free grammar: Modal verbs 1 (*have to/should/be allowed to/not to be allowed to*) (*Language in use A2*)
- boost your vocabulary: Talking about Internet safety.

Warm-up

What about your online behaviour?

- 1 Have a look at the questionnaire and tick the boxes that most closely match your behaviour.



1 How often do you use the Internet?

- more than once a day
 once a day
 once a week
 once a month
 less than once a month

2 On average, how many hours per day do you spend on the Internet?

- less than 1 hour a day
 1–2 hours
 2–3 hours
 3–4 hours
 more than 4 hours a day

3 What do you like doing most online?

- using chat rooms
 instant messaging
 using social networks
 reading/writing blogs
 gaming
 browsing the web
 listening to music
 sharing files
 shopping
 reading the news
 watching Internet TV

4 How often do you ...

	more than once a day	once a day	once a week	once a month	less than once a month
use chat rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
use instant messaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
use social networking sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
read/write blogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
play games online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
browse the web	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
listen to music online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
share files	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
do online shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
read the news online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
watch Internet TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 5 What is the main way you communicate with your friends?
 voice call video call SMS e-mail instant messaging
 Skype chat rooms gaming sites
- 6 How many online contacts do you have that you have not met in the real world?
- 7 Have you ever met someone in the real world you had only met online before? Yes No
- 8 Do you use a webcam? Yes No
- 9 Have you received lessons on how to use the Internet? Yes No
- 10 Have you received lessons on how to stay safe on the Internet? Yes No



2 Get into groups of three and compare your results. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

LanguageBox

I use the Internet every day/ more than once a day ... and I usually spend ... hours a day on the Internet.

I like using/doing/chatting with ... most.

Usually I use ... to communicate with my friends.

All in all, I have about ... online contacts.

I use a webcam for staying in contact with/talking to .../I do not use a webcam because ...

Unfortunately, I have never received any lessons on how to use the Internet/stay safe on the Internet but ...

Fortunately, I have received lessons on ...

Reading

Useful Internet safety tips

1 Have a look at the VocabBooster. Match the words/phrases in A with the appropriate definitions in B. Then get into pairs and compare your results.

VocabBooster

	A	B	
	predator	1	<input type="checkbox"/> to understand sth.
	evildoer	2	<input type="checkbox"/> to stop being visible
	embarrassing	3	<input type="checkbox"/> very careful
	to figure out	4	<input type="checkbox"/> not showing careful thought or good judgement
	to get expelled	5	<input type="checkbox"/> a person who follows people in order to harm them
	to disappear	6	<input type="checkbox"/> able to be found or discovered
	super-cautious	7	<input type="checkbox"/> a person who does bad things
	traceable	8	<input type="checkbox"/> to be forced to leave
	impulsive	9	<input type="checkbox"/> feeling shy and ashamed



2 Read the article on how to stay safe on the Internet. While reading, take notes in the grid on page 52.



1 Spend much time surfing the web? If you do, you need to be aware of things that wait on the dark side of the Internet. Not only are there viruses, hackers and spammers – online predators and
5 evildoers are out there just waiting to attack teens in the digital world. You have probably heard of someone’s computer being hacked, his or her identity being stolen online, or even having some embarrassing pictures posted
10 online. “Nah, it can’t happen to me,” you think. Well, if you use the following Internet safety tips, you have a good chance of being right.

1. Keep your online identity secret

Don’t tell anyone your real name and address
15 or what neighborhood you live in. Here’s the general rule: Don’t give out any information that a predator could possibly use to find you. Even “small clues” like what school you attend or the name of your athletic team is enough for a
20 predator to figure out your identity. You wouldn’t tell some 40-year-old man or woman you met at the mall your name and where you live, would you? So why would you tell CoolGuy985 or HotChick16 from the chat room?

25 2. Your username and password belong to you ... and only you

Don’t give your username or password to anyone. It’s just that simple. What if a friend logs on and pretends to be you, and then says
30 something really awful and gets you in trouble? With your username and password, someone can post language that gets you expelled from school, in trouble with your parents, or even in trouble with the law. Keep your name and
35 password private.

3. The Internet has a great memory ... so keep its memory of you clean

Just because the Internet is so massive does not



mean that embarrassing or sexy pictures, rude or mean comments, or illegal activities will
40 disappear forever. Watch what you post about yourself or others – or allow your friends to post about you – because you may have to live with it for a very long time.

4. Be good online ... just like you are offline 45

Writing “hate” e-mails, hacking into other people’s computers, illegally downloading music or movies and making online threats are just as illegal on the Internet as they are in the real world. You cannot hide behind a screen
50 name and get away with it. Watch what you write – because someone else is watching what you write!

5. Be extremely careful about meeting someone in person 55

“Never meet anyone in person that you meet online.” Many teens do make good friends online. You just have to be super-cautious and make sure other people you know and trust also know this “new” online person. If you do decide
60 to meet the new person, bring some friends with you. All of you could meet together in a public area like a shopping center where there are tons of people around. If the situation feels creepy, it probably is creepy! Just like in the real world,
65 trust your gut instincts and walk away.

6. Some extra words of caution

Almost everything on the Internet is traceable: Every search, website visit, online posting and e-mail is registered or recorded somewhere on the Internet. Once you send something out on the Internet, it's almost impossible to take it back. You have to be careful – not impulsive – when you write e-mails or go to chat rooms.

75 Every website has this thing called a “privacy policy”: It will tell you how that website uses all the personal information about you, like your name. In some cases, though, when you're not looking, some websites ignore their privacy

policy and sell your e-mail address to other companies. When you open your e-mail one day, you might have 150 spam e-mails in your inbox as a result. If a website is asking for too much information about you, take control and leave the site.

Admittedly, the Internet is completely awesome. It lets you discover an incredible new world and meet some great new friends in the next town or across the globe. Just use it with caution, since the trail you leave behind may come back to haunt you and your family and friends one day.

questions	my notes
1 How can you keep your online identity secret?	
2 What can happen if you give your password to someone?	
3 What do you have to keep in mind when posting pictures, downloading music or commenting on the Internet?	
4 How should you behave when meeting an online friend in person for the first time?	
5 What does it mean that everything is traceable on the Internet?	
6 What could happen if companies ignore private policies?	



3

Get into pairs and summarise the most important information from the article. Use your notes from activity 2 and the phrases from the LanguageBox on page 53. Take turns.

LanguageBox

The article offers information about Internet safety.
 In general it is important to ...
 Furthermore, Internet users should keep in mind not to ...
 A useful tip on how we can protect ourselves while online might be that ...
 The article also says that ...
 Another important tip mentioned is that ...
 In order to stay safe on the Internet users have to / should / should not ...
 Finally, it can be said that ...

Language in use

You should never give your password to anybody

Trouble-free grammar: Modal verbs 1

have to

We use *have to* to express an obligation that comes from somewhere else (a person/an institution).

You *have to* be careful when sharing personal information on the Internet.
 Users *have to* agree to the terms of use before using an app.

should

We use *should* to give advice or to give an opinion.

You *should not* give your password to anyone.
 When online, you *should* be careful about of what you post.

be allowed to

We use *be allowed to* to express permission.

You *are allowed to* create a *Facebook* account when you are 13 or older.

We use *not to be allowed to* to express that something is forbidden.
 Websites *are not allowed to* sell your e-mail addresses to other companies.

1

Get into pairs. Have a look at the grid on page 54. Write down sentences on what users *have to/should/should not/are allowed to/are not allowed to* do in order to stay safe on the Internet. An example has been given. Then get together with another pair and compare your findings. Add any missing information to your grid.



1 What users have to do	Users have to be super-cautious when making friends online. Users have to ...
2 What users should do / should not do	
3 What users are allowed to do / are not allowed to do	

2

Complete the sentences. Use an appropriate modal verb (*have to/should/should not/be allowed to/not to be allowed to*). Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

- 1 You _____ use different passwords for different websites.
- 2 On some social networks you _____ find a user name when creating an account.
- 3 Users _____ create a *Facebook* account with false information, as this is a violation of their terms.
- 4 By accepting the privacy policy, the website _____ sell your e-mail address to other companies.
- 5 The Internet has a great memory, that's why you _____ post embarrassing pictures or rude comments.
- 6 You _____ be careful when meeting an online friend in real life for the first time.
- 7 You _____ use the Internet with caution, since the trail you leave behind may come back to haunt you.

Listening

What about your password?



Have a look at the words in the VocabBooster on page 55 and write them in the appropriate category. Then walk around in class and ask your classmates to help you with the words you do not know. Make sure that you know all the words in the end. Use an online dictionary if you need help. Take notes if necessary.



VocabBooster

sensitive ■ secure ■ bank account ■ to guess ■ memorable ■ upper case letters ■ to be aware ■ scam ■ to hand over ■ to unlock ■ to log out ■ trash ■ access

I have no idea what this word/phrase means.	I have some idea what this word/phrase could mean but I am not sure.	I know this word/phrase.



Listen to a talk by an IT specialist who is working in the field of Internet security. While listening, complete the sentences (1–7). The first one (0) has been done for you.

- 0 If criminals get into your bank account they could cause *terrible damage*.
- 1 Having a password that works everywhere can be
- 2 Internet users should create passwords that are
- 3 Passwords could be made stronger by adding
- 4 Never give your password to people you love, they might not be as
- 5 Never tell anyone your password
- 6 Always remember to log out if you use a computer that is
- 7 By using strong passwords Internet users can feel a little



Get into pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 According to the talk, what makes a password safe?
- 2 How many different passwords do you have? How do you remember them?
- 3 Do you change your passwords regularly? Why? / Why not?

Speaking

Stay safe online



Get into pairs. Have a look at the VocabBooster on page 56 and explain the words to each other. Look up all the words you do not know in an online dictionary.





VocabBooster

2 With your partner choose nine words from the VocabBooster above. Write down meaningful sentences. Then get together with another pair and read out your sentences.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9



3 Internet safety is a very important issue everybody is confronted with nowadays. Do some research on the Internet and prepare a presentation on this topic.

In your presentation you should

- define the term *Internet safety*
- point out possible risks on the Internet
- suggest ways of protecting your online identity.

Speak for about four minutes. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

LanguageBox

Welcome to my presentation on ...

First, I want to define the term *Internet safety* in more detail.

It must be said that ...

In addition, ...

It should also be mentioned that ...

Now let's talk about possible risks and dangers on the Internet.

It needs to be said that one of the most serious risks on the Internet is ...

Furthermore, users have to be careful that ...

Another danger on the Internet is ...

It also happens quite often that ...

In order to protect your online identity, it is important to ...

It would also be advisable to ...

Another piece of advice is to ...

Finally, I would like to mention that ...

Thank you for listening.

Writing

Writing a blog comment



1

Get into pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Why do many teenagers excessively share information about their private life on the Internet? Explain.
- 2 Why do some teenagers not care about privacy on the Internet? Give reasons.
- 3 Do you care about what you post on the Internet? Why? / Why not?

2

You have just read Jon's blog post on *www.teen-tech.com*. Write a blog comment and say why you agree/disagree with Jon's view. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

Sharing is caring

by Jon Stuart

May 17, 7:45 pm

They share and like everything. How they feel about a song; their Maths homework and of course life (it usually sucks); where they'll be next; who they're with now; photos, of themselves and others, doing stuff they quite probably shouldn't be doing.

They are young, and they couldn't care less about privacy.

Teenagers do not care much about what they do online. They should be made aware of the importance of this issue. Far more should be done in schools to teach teenagers to be more concerned about the future impact of their online profile and reputation.

Teenagers out there, do you agree?
Can't wait to read your comments.



LanguageBox

Hi Jon

Hope you're good. You are interested in whether teenagers care about what they do online.

I'm ... years old and I'm online ... a day.

I use the Internet to post / chat / comment on / read ...

You say that teenagers couldn't care less about privacy. This is not true at all. / Unfortunately, this is so true.

Teenagers are aware of / are not aware of the dangers of the Internet because ...

You also mention that schools should do more to educate teenagers about the future impact of their online profile.

I fully agree with you because ... / I disagree with you because ...

In my opinion it would be advisable to have more lessons on Internet security because ...

Learning about how to protect your online identity / avoid leaving any tracks online ... would be highly interesting for us.

Maybe schools could also ...?

Another possibility would be to ...

Bloggers out there, what do you think about this issue?