

LISTENING 2

FACEBOOK GENERATION

Listen to a radio programme in which four people give their opinion about Facebook and social networks in general. You'll hear each speaker twice. Match the sentences with the speakers (there are 2 sentences per speaker).

E.g.: Speaker 1 has an Australian Facebook friend.

- A. _____ had to talk to other parents after seeing some contents (photos) on Facebook.
- B. _____ has access to her child's Facebook account.
- C. _____ has been rejected as a Facebook friend more than 10 times.
- D. _____ is horrified at the idea of parents spying their own children using Facebook (or any other means).
- E. _____ is surprised she has been accepted as a Facebook friend by a total stranger.
- F. _____ learnt how to use Facebook from another mum.
- G. _____ says some of her children have accepted her as a Facebook friend, but not all of them.
- H. _____ thinks that it's necessary for children to learn how to use social networks.

FACEBOOK GENERATION - KEY

E.g.: Speaker 1 has an Australian Facebook friend.

- A. Speaker 3 had to talk to other parents after seeing some contents (photos) on Facebook.
- B. Speaker 3 has access to her child's Facebook account.
- C. Speaker 1 has been rejected as a Facebook friend more than 10 times.
- D. Speaker 2 is horrified at the idea of parents spying their own children using Facebook (or any other means).
- E. Speaker 1 is surprised she has been accepted as a Facebook friend by a total stranger.
- F. Speaker 4 learnt how to use Facebook from another mum.
- G. Speaker 2 says some of her children have accepted her as a Facebook friend, but not all of them.
- H. Speaker 4 thinks that it's necessary for children to learn how to use social networks.

TRANSCRIPT: FACEBOOK

Now, if you have children of any age, I'm sure they're on Facebook, or Myspace, or Bebo, anyone of a number of social networking sites, and so you are no doubt, fascinated and sometimes anxious about what goes on online. Last week, we asked for your experiences for trying to keep track of what they are up to. Some of you don't think you should spy, others, are doing their best.

1. My 16-year-old son has consistently refused my requests to be his friend on Facebook, as he thought I would be constantly spying and checking upon him, as indeed I would be. So, imagine my delight and surprise when, after my 12th request, I saw that he had accepted me as a friend. I immediately went into Facebook to look, only to find that it was the wrong person, same name, but a different person. I am now friends with a 23-year-old Australian cattle rancher who lives in Queensland, and his hobbies are booze and women. He does, however, have the same name as my son. What I fail to understand is why he accepted an old woman, living near London, who he has never heard of before, let alone met, as his friend. My son is still refusing my over-chase of friendship. Well, he has 530 friends already.

2. I am appalled! Do parents really think it's OK to spy on their children by Facebook or any other means? My daughters and my older son are my Facebook friends. My younger son prefers not to be. I don't challenge that, it's his choice. I have instructions to be careful what I say on my daughters' Facebook walls, and that is all. I'm sure their trust in me would be broken forever if they thought I was spying on them.

3. My 14-year-old daughter uses Facebook. I have her log-in, and she is happy that I have access to her account. She generally has nothing to hide, and originally wanted me to farm her crops on Farmville while she was at school. Since I have such wide access, I'm able to see what her friends post about themselves. A rare few have posted pictures of themselves in their underwear, 14-year-old girls. As a result, I've contacted their parents, or the school, as they have no idea of the risks they run. I clearly have other issues if they feel the need for that kind of attention.

4. I just had to get a lesson from another mum on how to use Facebook. She spends most of her evenings on it. Now I'm on, I've discovered the reason why my friends have lost contact with me. They're all on Facebook. Social networks are just an extension of the social spaces that have always existed. Our children are going to need to know how to behave appropriately in these social spaces to get on with their lives, and if we prevent them from learning how to do that now, they'll be in danger because of naivety later in life.

Now, thank you for all your e-mails.