

Social networking

What websites have you looked at today? Was one of them a social networking website such as Facebook or My Space? These websites have quickly become part of our everyday life. There are now over 200 social networking websites which are regularly used by millions of people worldwide. They provide a great way of keeping in contact with friends, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones. However, we also need to remember that some people misuse networking websites, and that the information we read might not be true. Here are some top tips to help you network safely on the web!

1. Don't post very personal information eg. Your full name, address, telephone number, bank details. The internet is the world's largest information exchange, so more people than you think might see your profile!
2. Check how the site works – can everyone see your profile or just your "friends"?
3. Remember even if you delete information, someone might still have a copy of the old site on their computer.
4. Think carefully about which photos you post. Other people might access and use your photo in ways you might not like.
5. Be careful if you decide to meet a new online friend in person. If you arrange to see them, meet in a public place, during the day and take friends you can trust. You should tell an adult where you are going and how long you will be.
6. If you ever feel threatened by someone you meet online tell an adult, and don't be afraid to report them to the networking site or the police you might be helping to protect someone else too!

GLOSSARY: Social networking website – sitios de redes sociales,
Tips - consejos, Keep in contact – mantenerse en contacto,
Provide - proporcionar, Misuse – utilizar mal

QUESTIONS:**1. Read the text and answer the questions.**

- a) What type of website is the article about?
- b) What could be a problem with the information we read on these websites?

2. Read the text again and answer the questions.

- c) Give an example of a social networking website.
- d) What are the advantages of social networking websites?
- e) What should you remember if you delete information from a site?
- f) Why should you be careful with the photos you post a social networking site?
- g) When and where should you meet if you meet with a new online friend?
- h) Why should you tell someone if you feel threatened by a person you have met online?

**3. Vocabulary. Complete these phrases with the correct preposition.
Try and do it without looking at the text!**

- a) What websites have you looked _____ ?
- b) The websites are used _____ millions of people.
- c) They provide a great way _____ keeping in touch with friends.
- d) Think carefully _____ which photos you post.
- e) Be careful if you decide to meet an online friend _____ person.
- f) Tell an adult if you feel threatened _____ someone you meet online.

ANSWERS:**1.**

- a) Social networking websites.
- b) It might not be true.

2.

- c) Facebook/ My Space.
- d) They are a good way to stay in contact with friends, reconnect with old friends or meet new friends.
- e) That someone might have an old copy of the website on their computer.
- f) Because other people can access your photo and might use it in a way you don't like.
- g) You should meet during the day and in a public place.
- h) Because you might help protect someone else from being threatened too.

3.

- a) at.
- b) by.
- c) of.
- d) about.
- e) in.
- f) by.