

SPEAKING TASK

PAIR DISCUSSION

PAIR DISCUSSION – 1

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You have to respond to the news and discuss it with a partner.

*You have **3 minutes** to read the text and prepare for the discussion.*

*The discussion should take up to **4 minutes**.*

You are expected to:

- *give a short summary of the text **(Student A)**;*
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A DRONE FOR TAKING A SELFIE.. THE IDEA IS GENIUS



Phone selfies are boring. People are not doing them anymore and they have become unpopular. First, there was the standard selfie, then the selfie stick, and now the next evolution of the selfie has arrived!

Nobody knows who did it first, but one day thousands of people started uploading incredible selfies from insane angles to social media and soon everyone wanted to do the same. This new type of selfie has taken off literally across the world!

It is the new *Drone X Pro*, a brand new type of drone made so that anyone can fly it. It was designed by two German engineers who love drones. They admitted that the drones they had were very bulky, heavy and difficult to travel with. So, they designed this ultra-compact, light drone, and all without sacrificing any of the main benefits of a top HD model. It is firm, it is easy to control and it can live-stream and record to your phone! There is hope that the invention will not only be used for selfies and will further stimulate its users' creativity.

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TIKTOK VIDEOS ARE ABOUT TO GET LENGTHIER



A spokesperson for the app confirmed Monday that TikTok will now allow users to create videos up to 10 minutes long.

The platform is "always thinking about new ways to bring value to our community and enrich the TikTok experience," the spokesperson said, and 10-minute videos is its latest attempt to better the app. "Today, we're excited to start rolling out the ability to upload videos that are up to 10 minutes, which we hope would unleash even more creative possibilities for our creators around the world," the spokesperson said.

TikTok last increased its maximum video time in July, when it upped video length from one minute to three minutes. As TikTok evolves into a longer-form app with videos closer to the length of content on YouTube, other platforms, like YouTube and Instagram, are trying to capture the magic of short-form videos. Instagram has Reels, and YouTube has Shorts, both of which were introduced in 2020. Let us hope this does not mean a fierce competition, but rather a wider choice for users.

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IS HAVING A SMARTPHONE A REQUIREMENT IN 2022?



For many people a smartphone is as necessary as food and water. Others may not see the appeal. Yet, the official statistics tell us that smartphone ownership has grown tremendously over the past decade: 96 % of young adults aged 18 to 29 own a smartphone and so do 61% of adults aged 65 and older.

Why are people using their smartphones? Some common uses include checking social media, playing games and making phone calls or texting. Aside from that, people can use smartphones to pay bills, check bank account balances, manage their budgets, send money to friends and family, and shop online at their favorite stores. The typical person checks their phone every five minutes.

It is easy to say that smartphones are a luxury rather than a necessity as people managed to live without them for centuries. However, such an approach seems to ignore changes that have taken place in how people live today – what is next that we will soon hardly do without a smartphone?

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DIGITAL AROUND THE WORLD – WHAT DO NUMBERS TELL US?



4.95 billion people around the world use the internet in January 2022 – equivalent to 62.5 percent of the world’s total population. About 3 billion people around the world *do not* use the internet, marking another important milestone on our journey towards universal accessibility. But internet users are currently growing by half a million new users each day.

Social media use continues to grow too, with global users reaching 4.62 billion in January 2022. That is equal to 58.4 percent of all the people on the Earth. Social media users are currently growing at a rate of more than 13 new users *every single second*.

The average global internet user spends almost 7 hours online each day out of which 2 hours 27 minutes is spent on social media each day.

If you were expecting *digital* to ever return to *usual*, be it everyday activities or education or business, you’d better reset such expectations.. Can it be scary?

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THE POWER OF SOCIAL NETWORKING



The use of social media has increased dramatically in 15 years. Only 5% of adults claimed they utilised a social networking platform in 2005; today that percentage is close to 70% and it seems to be growing up.

People use social networking in many different ways. The availability of social media has boosted the number of people interested in remote learning. Online learning has exploded in popularity, allowing people to quickly acquire a skill and build a successful career around it. Social networking has had a significant impact on job recruitment and a business that uses social media effectively has a significant advantage over its competitors. Social media has had a significant impact on politics too. It is currently where the vast majority of people get their news. People also use online platforms to communicate their political concerns and suggest or demand what actions need to be taken.

Such advantages seem to outweigh any possible disadvantages or should we consider the cons too?

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FACEBOOK DELAYS INSTAGRAM APP FOR USERS 13 AND YOUNGER



The social media giant said on Monday that it had paused development of an *Instagram Kids* service that would be tailored for children 13 years old or younger, as the social network increasingly faces questions about the app's effect on young people's mental health.

“This will give us time to work with parents, experts, policymakers and regulators, to listen to their concerns, and to demonstrate the value and importance of this project for younger teens online today,” Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram.

With *Instagram Kids*, Facebook had argued that young people were using the photo-sharing app anyway, despite age-requirement rules, so it would be better to develop a version more suitable for them.

Policymakers, regulators, child safety groups and consumer rights groups, however, have argued that it hooks children on the app at a younger age rather than protects them from problems including child predatory tactic, bullying and body shaming.

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DO CRIME APPS STOP BYSTANDERS FROM HELPING?



In a Rockville, Maryland, high school this January an argument between two boys ended with a shot ringing out.. What witnesses to the crime did next shocked Betsy Brantner Smith, a three-decade law enforcement veteran: "The students started tweeting about it. That's just, unfortunately, the era we live in. What they didn't do was call for police or for help. The wounded boy was only found later."

Taking out a mobile phone has become almost a reflex, even when witnessing a crime. Sometimes bystanders take photos or film, and sometimes they take to social media.

In recent years, commercial phone apps have emerged encouraging bystanders to report crime to these platforms. The app's core philosophy is that access to information can protect the public from danger. But when the encouragement to take images or report to apps is now so prevalent, will witnesses be filming instead of helping or calling police for aid?