



Year 1 Issue 2
Social Networks

EVERYDAY ENGLISH!

'Friend'

You used to have 'friends' in school, or in your neighbourhood, but the use of the word has changed due to our favourite social network: Facebook. Nowadays, people 'friend' you, as in: 'this girl friended me on Facebook', past tense and all. So, what used to be a noun, became a verb, and what started as a revenge, ended up being the centre of every social life in the western world.

'Home'

It's not the place where mum is, unless she has commented on a publication you made earlier in the week. 'Home' is the place where you arrive first when you go into Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc. It is where you touch ground, where you usually find what interests you, and where you plan what step is next, exactly the same you do in your other home!



THE TECH-CORNER

When visiting The Big Picture Platform, you can go to the Student's Area, and download all the audios you need for the Workbook exercises on your mobile phone. This way, you will have them whenever you need them, even if you don't have an internet connection!



TWO THUMBS UP!

The Social Network

The question isn't "what do we want to know about people?" It's "what do people want to tell about themselves?"

Mark Zuckerberg

This is the story about a university dropout who changed the way in which we relate to one another.

Once upon a time, there was a boy, he attended a university called Harvard to get a degree related to technology, but then, a girl decided to break his heart, and his revenge became the best opportunity of his life.

David Fincher, the director, in the great company of Aaron Sorkin, the screenwriter, and Trent Reznor, the musical mind behind the amazing score, managed to accomplish a task that seemed impossible: to portray the loneliness of the man with the highest growing number of friends on earth.

The movie tells a story already known by many, the young entrepreneur who got sued for stealing an idea, his strides to success, the first years, the bad influences, but even if the spectator knows it in advance, it is the kind of cautionary tale that doesn't get boring.

Humanizing a giant, that was the task, as well as to show his deepest passions and instincts in a way that was unpleasant for some (especially for the one who was portrayed) but not for the audience, who, as in Facebook, is always eager to get as many details of others' lives as possible.



LEARNING TO LEARN

Whenever learning a new language, a good way to get some extra practice is to change the language setting in your Facebook account to English. This way you can get familiar not only with the lingo of the social network, but also with words that will help you when you try to explain something about personal relationships in your new language. As well as this you will become more familiar with the spelling of the words that appear all over your wall and news feed.



GETTING AROUND

"When travelling, stay at someone's home". One of the first pieces of advice I got when I began travelling, but, what does it mean exactly?

In my experience, there are two possible interpretations for the phrase.

1. Go to airbnb.com, a worldwide community of people willing to rent a room, loft, boat, big house with garden, whatever you need/want/can afford for your next weekend trip to a close town or for a month in a huge city in Asia. Owners give great tips on the area, and many of them present freebies to their renters, like a bottle of wine on arrival.
2. Go to couchsurfing.com, a worldwide community of people willing to let you stay at their places for free, with the idea that you let others do the same when you go back home. Some hosts may even take you to meet their friends, cook dinner for you, lend you a bike, or become your guests in the future.

So, when travelling, be sure to consider these alternate options for housing, you may save money and gain friends.



WORLD OF ENGLISH

English is the language in which the world does business, therefore, it is expected that new professionals in every field from agriculture to accounting, from medicine to publishing, learn this language. If not in a proficient manner, in a way that allows them to work collaboratively with people from all around the globe.

A great example of the way the job world is changing is LinkedIn, a social network developed to help industries hire the best professionals in any field, and, as told by a specialist in Human Resources looking for new employees, the ones who have well developed profiles in English get more attention than those who don't.

So, knowing English does not only affect your chances of getting or not the position of your dreams, it could also have an impact on how visible you are for the companies that are important to you, no matter what you do.

Learning to effectively describe in writing what you can do is a sample of your communicative skills, which are basic for modern companies, and being able to administrate your own profile in such space is a way to show prospective employers that you are organised and that you can handle an image online.

So, start learning how to use LinkedIn and how to let English be your best asset when looking for a new job.