

5.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand linkers ■ Use extreme adjectives

Reading & Speaking understanding linkers



- 1 The kids are in bed, the house is quiet, and my wife and I turn on the TV. What's on? It doesn't really matter, because thirty seconds later, I'm working on my laptop. **Meanwhile** my wife is on Facebook on her phone. This is a typical evening in our house. And **what's more**, it's how many of us watch TV. The second screen is part of modern-day life, **especially** for young people.
- 2 A second screen can be a tablet, a smartphone, a laptop or a hand-held gaming unit used whilst watching TV. Smartphone and tablet owners **in particular** are very keen on second-screen viewing. People use second screens to look at things that are related to or totally different from what they are watching on TV.

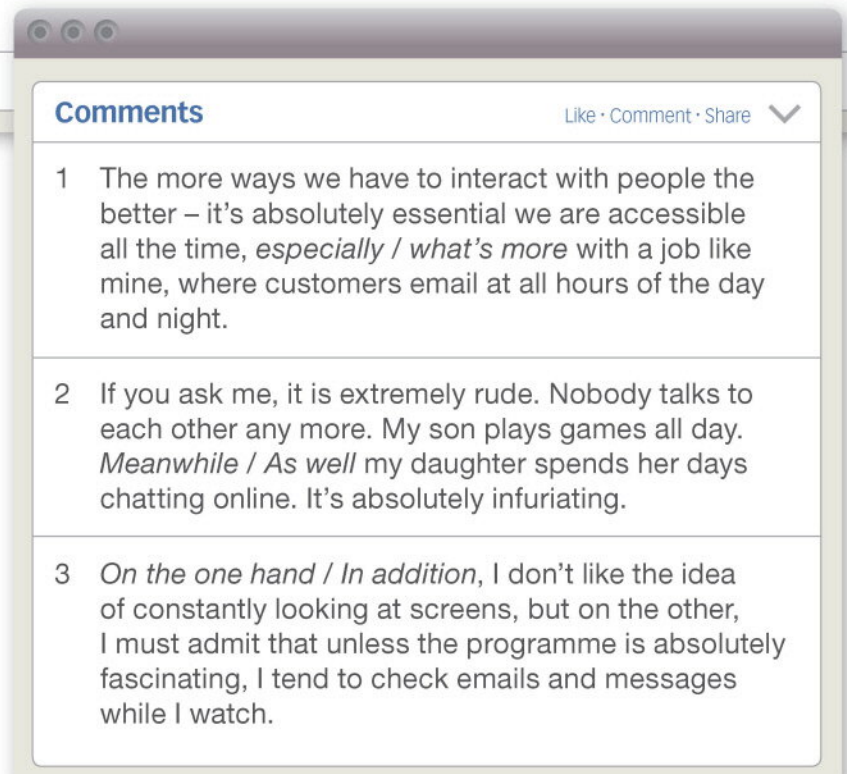
- 1 Work in small groups and discuss the questions.
 - How much TV do you watch on average each day?
 - Do you do anything else while you are watching TV?
- 2a Look at the headline and the photo and discuss what you think the article is about.
 - a Read paragraphs 1 and 2 and check your ideas.
- 3a Work with a partner and look at the highlighted expressions in paragraph 1. Which phrases are linkers for...?
 - 1 adding information
 - 2 emphasizing something
 - 3 saying two things happen at the same time
 - 4 giving both sides of the argument
- b Read the information in the Unlock the code box about linkers to check your answers.

UNLOCK THE CODE linkers

We use linkers to organize information when we speak and write. They are like signposts and have different purposes:

- adding information: *as well, what's more*
- saying two things happen at the same time: *meanwhile*
- emphasizing: *above all, especially*
- giving both sides of the argument: *on the one hand*

- c Read the rest of the article. Add the highlighted phrases to the categories in exercise 3a.



- 4 Read the three comments on the article above and choose the correct options.
- 5 Read the whole article and answer the questions. Check your answers with a partner.
 - 1 What two types of technology are used most for second-screen viewing?
 - 2 What kind of people like second-screen viewing?
 - 3 In which countries are second screens most popular? And least?
 - 4 What is the advantage of second-screen viewing?
 - 5 What is the main disadvantage of second-screen viewing?

Vocabulary & Speaking extreme adjectives

- 6 Look at sentences 1–2 from the comments in exercise 4. How does the writer feel? Which words does he/she use to express his/her feelings?
- 1 It's absolutely infuriating.
 - 2 ... the programme is absolutely fascinating ...
- 3 A recent study carried out in Brazil, Germany, Russia, the UK, and the USA showed that viewers use second screens to chat (72%); to follow/like programmes (57%); to share posts (61%); to watch clips (61%); to find information (66%); and for gaming (49%). **In addition**, the study found that Brazilian viewers used second screens the most, while those in Germany used them the least.
- 4 Of course, second screens are both good and bad for TV companies. **On the one hand**, they can take our attention away from the TV. **On the other hand**, they can improve our viewing experience with interesting information and chat. One thing is for sure: with apps and social media on the rise, the second screen is here to stay.

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- 7a Match adjectives 1–7 to adjectives a–g which have a similar meaning.

1 bad	a essential
2 annoying	b terrifying
3 good	c awful
4 important	d infuriating
5 interesting	e impossible
6 difficult	f brilliant
7 scary	g fascinating

- b Which adjectives are stronger?
- c Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about extreme adjectives to check your answers.

VOCABULARY FOCUS extreme adjectives

- Use extreme adjectives when you want to make the meaning of the adjective much stronger:
bad → *awful*; *difficult* → *impossible*; *annoying* → *infuriating*; *important* → *essential*; *interesting* → *fascinating*; *scary* → *terrifying*
- To make extreme adjectives sound even stronger, use *absolutely*:
*The game was **absolutely brilliant**.*
- With non-extreme adjectives, use *very*, or *extremely*:
*The film was **extremely scary**.*

- 8 Work with a partner. Here are some more extreme adjectives. Can you work out what the underlined adjectives mean?
- 1 I can't walk any further. I'm absolutely exhausted. I'll have to sit down.
 - 2 She was absolutely amazed when she saw her sister standing at the front door. They hadn't seen each other for ten years.
 - 3 That smells absolutely delicious. I love the smell of garlic. What are you cooking?
 - 4 It's absolutely astonishing. This is the first time you haven't been late this year!
 - 5 I can't carry that. It's absolutely enormous. I'll need some help to get it up the stairs.
 - 6 Put the heater on. It's absolutely freezing in here.

PRONUNCIATION extreme adjectives

When we use extreme adjectives, we stress both the adverb and the adjective.

- 9a 5.5))) Listen to the sentences and underline the stressed syllables in the adverbs and adjectives in bold.
- 1 I'm **absolutely exhausted**.
 - 2 She was **absolutely amazed**.
 - 3 That smells **absolutely delicious**.
 - 4 It's **absolutely astonishing**.
 - 5 It's **absolutely enormous**.
 - 6 It's **absolutely freezing** in here.
- b Practise the stress.
- c 5.6))) Now listen to the sentences in exercise 8 and practise them, stressing the extreme adverbs and adjectives.
- 10 **TASK** Work in small groups. What is your reaction in these situations? Why? Use some extreme adjectives to express how you feel.
- You are having a meal with a friend who keeps looking at his/her phone and sending messages.
 - You settle down to watch your favourite TV programme and a friend calls you.
 - A friend invites you to dinner, but leaves the TV on and keeps watching while you are eating.
 - Your flatmate wants to play noisy video games, but you want to watch a TV documentary.