

## 11.2 *I should never have clicked 'send'!*

GOALS ■ Talk about people's behaviour on social media ■ Criticize past actions

### Vocabulary & Reading behaviour on social media

1 Work in small groups and discuss the questions.

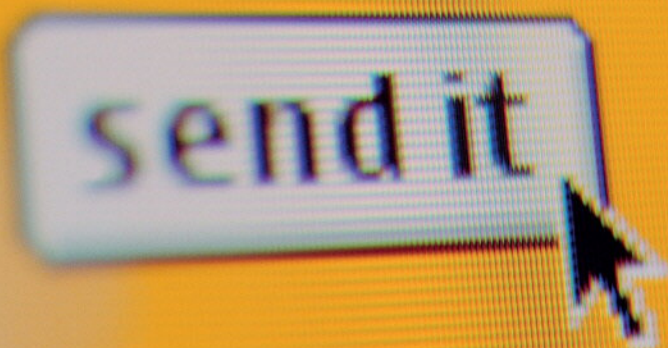
- 1 What differences are there between communicating online and face-to-face?
- 2 Look at the headline of the article. Why do you think one in four people regrets sending their messages?

2a Read the article and compare your ideas with the survey findings.

b Read the article again and match statements 1–3 to the percentages of the two thousand people who agreed.

26% 36% 55%

- 1 People nowadays communicate more online than face-to-face. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 I have said something online which I wouldn't say in real life. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I have seen online bullying or been a victim of it myself. \_\_\_\_\_



### One in four regrets messages on social networking sites

More than a quarter of all users of Twitter and other social networking sites send messages they later **regret**, according to research.

The fact that the communication is not face-to-face makes people online more likely to **criticize** and **insult** each other, a survey of 2,000 people has found.

While social media websites are becoming places for people to **stand up for what they believe in**, people can also often feel they shouldn't have pressed the 'send' button so quickly.

More than half (55%) of the 2,000 people surveyed said that they felt social media had replaced face-to-face interaction; and nearly two in five (39%) people said they used social media to **speak up about** something they **felt passionate** about. Of these 39%, nearly half (44%) believed what they said had **made a real difference** because it led to **people blogging or tweeting about the issue**, or actual changes being made.

However, social media does have some problems. More than a quarter (26%) admitted they have said something

**nasty** on a social media website they would **never say to someone's face**.

Some 44% of those regretted it because what they said had been **rude**, while 27% regretted it because they thought it had upset someone.

The research also revealed that online bullying was a serious problem, with more than a third (36%) having seen someone become **a victim of online bullying** or been one themselves.

Professor Adrian Dunbar said: 'Our research has shown that people are more likely to say something on social media that they later regret, because in these digital environments we don't receive the immediate feedback that we get during face-to-face interactions. This can therefore result in a **careless** or unpleasant tweet, or at worst, **cyberbullying**.'

- c Work with a partner and discuss the questions.
- 1 Which findings would you agree with?
  - 2 How accurate do you think this survey is? Give reasons.

- 3a Work with a partner. Read the article again. Student A, work out the meaning of the words or phrases in groups 1–4. Student B, work out the meaning of the words or phrases in groups 5–8. Work out how the words and phrases are different in each group.

#### Student A

- 1 criticize/insult
- 2 rude/nasty
- 3 communicate face-to-face/say something to someone's face
- 4 stand up for what you believe in/speak up about something you feel passionate about

#### Student B

- 5 have a positive effect/make a real difference
- 6 be sorry you did something/regret doing something
- 7 not thinking enough about what you are doing/being careless
- 8 blog or tweet about an issue/(be a victim of) cyberbullying

- b Explain any differences in meaning in each pair of words or phrases to your partner. Give examples to show the differences.

- 4 Work with a partner or in small groups. Which of the following statements do you agree with more? Give your reasons.
- 1 People are more likely to say something rude or nasty online that they would never say to someone's face.
  - 2 Online communication is essential for our lives. Its benefits are much more important than any possible drawbacks.

## Grammar *should/shouldn't have*

- 5 Read the information in the Grammar focus box and choose the correct options to complete the rules.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS *should/shouldn't have*

We use **should have** + past participle to talk about and criticize things we did and didn't do in the past.

*They should have thought more carefully before putting something on a social media site.*

They <sup>1</sup> **did** / **didn't** think carefully – that was a <sup>2</sup> **good** / **bad** idea.

*They shouldn't have pressed the 'send' button so quickly.*

They <sup>3</sup> **did** / **didn't** press the send button – that was a <sup>4</sup> **good** / **bad** idea.

→ Grammar Reference page 157

- 6a 11.2 ))) Listen to two people talking about mistakes they made with social media and complete the sentences with *should/shouldn't have* + the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) more careful when she posted the video.
- 2 She \_\_\_\_\_ (accept) her boss as a 'friend' online.
- 3 She \_\_\_\_\_ (behave) badly at the party.
- 4 She \_\_\_\_\_ (post) any videos online.
- 5 He \_\_\_\_\_ (think) before pressing *send*.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ (say) anything negative about the interviewer online.
- 7 He \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) until he was offered the job.
- 8 They \_\_\_\_\_ (give) him the job anyway if he was the best candidate.

- b 11.3 ))) Listen and check.

- c Do you agree with all the statements? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

### PRONUNCIATION *should/shouldn't have*

- 7a 11.4 ))) Listen to two sentences. What do you notice about the pronunciation of *have*?

*She should have been more careful.*

*She shouldn't have behaved badly.*

- b 11.4 ))) Listen again and repeat.

- 8 **TASK** 11.5 ))) Listen to two more people talking about their mistakes. After each one, discuss what happened with a partner, using *should/shouldn't have*. Do you agree with each other? And with the class?