

- 1 **SPEAKING** Discuss the question on the online forum page. Then read the post and decide whether you agree or disagree with the views expressed.
- 2 Read the **WRITING FOCUS**. Complete the examples with the linkers in purple in the article in Exercise 1.

WRITING FOCUS

A reader's comment

When you give your opinion in a piece of writing such as a reader's comment, use linkers to:

- **give an opinion:** *I think .../ ¹Personally, I don't think/*
² _____
- **add further points:** *In fact, .../I also agree that .../*
*I also think that .../*³ _____
- **give an opposite opinion:** *On the other hand, I strongly disagree .../*⁴ _____
- **conclude:** *Therefore .../So .../That's why .../*
⁵ _____

- 3 Complete the reader's comment on the post in Exercise 1 with appropriate phrases in the **WRITING FOCUS**.

daisy345 says: Thanks for a great post. It made me think about how I use my own phone.
¹Personally, I b_____ t_____ social media is a fantastic tool for sharing information and staying in touch with friends. I can communicate with my friends when I'm not with them.
²W_____ i_____ m_____, I never feel alone. ³H_____, sometimes I can't concentrate on my homework. If I get a message, I can't wait – I have to answer it immediately. ⁴F_____ t_____ r_____, I sometimes wake up in the night to answer a message or look at a post. Then I start looking on the Internet and I can't get back to sleep. ⁵S_____, I end up feeling really tired and bad-tempered. On the one hand I know I should ignore my phone at night, but ⁶o_____ t_____ o_____ h_____, I don't want my friends to think I'm ignoring them!

- 4 Look at a summary of opinions expressed by both writers. Then answer the questions.

SUMMARY

- Social media is a good thing and has lots of benefits
- Checking your phone at night is not good for you
- It's impossible to ignore your phone

- 1 Which two opinions do both writers agree on?
- 2 Which opinion do they disagree about?
- 3 Who do you agree with and why?

- 5 Read the **LANGUAGE FOCUS**. Complete the examples with the sentences underlined in the text in Exercise 1.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Structures with make

Make always takes an object and either the infinitive without to, an adjective or a noun.

- **make + object + infinitive without to**
¹ _____
- **make + object + adjective/noun**
² _____

- 6 Put the object in brackets in the correct place. Which sentences are true for you?

- 1 I think smartphones make **everybody's life** easier. (everybody's life)
- 2 I like posting things that make **my friends** laugh. (my friends)
- 3 My parents make **me** switch my phone off at night. (me)
- 4 If I can't check my phone regularly, it makes **me** anxious. (me)
- 5 Teachers make **us** put our phones on silent in class. (us)
- 6 I think smartphones make **the world** a better place. (the world)

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

- 7 Read the text. Then do the writing task. Use the **WRITING FOCUS** and **LANGUAGE FOCUS** to help you.

Newsfocus.com: Daily Discussion

Does social media make you happy?

The answer is probably not. A recent survey found that one in five people say they feel depressed when they use social media. Academic research suggests that regular use leads to feelings of anxiety, stress and poor sleep. We use social media to present a false picture of our lives – like a movie of the life we'd like to live rather than the one we're actually living. If we post something and don't get enough 'shares' or 'likes', it makes us feel bad or unloved. What is more, teenagers are losing the ability to communicate face-to-face. Social media is addictive, and like all drugs, it is doing us more harm than good. Just say no!

Join the Daily Discussion and tell us what you think in our Reader's Comments section below.

You've read the article above on a news website. Write a reader's comment. Include the following information:

- express your opinion about the article
- write what you agree with and why
- write what you disagree with and why
- describe your conclusions.