



New Ways of Staying Connected

- A How do we stay connected with friends and family? There are always letters, of course, or the telephone. But the Internet and **smart phones** are giving us new ways to connect with other people. These days, we can easily communicate with people on Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, and other **social networking sites**. Is this a good thing? Maybe not always. Social networking has both **pros** and **cons**.

Pros

- B Social networking is wonderful for friendships. We can use it to connect with people outside our neighborhood, anywhere in the world. We can socialize with family and old friends. We can make new friends. And with social networking, it's easy to invite friends to a party or other **social event**. Also, **shy** people (who have difficulty communicating in person) are often comfortable in a virtual friendship. They don't feel alone.
- C Social networking sites can help with important **life issues** such as finding a job or finding a doctor or choosing a school. The sites offer ideas and **advice** from experts—people with a lot of information on a subject. Also, friends can help each other. For example, one person needs a new apartment. Another person is moving from his apartment soon. A friend of both people can connect them.



▲ Pros: What's good about social networking?

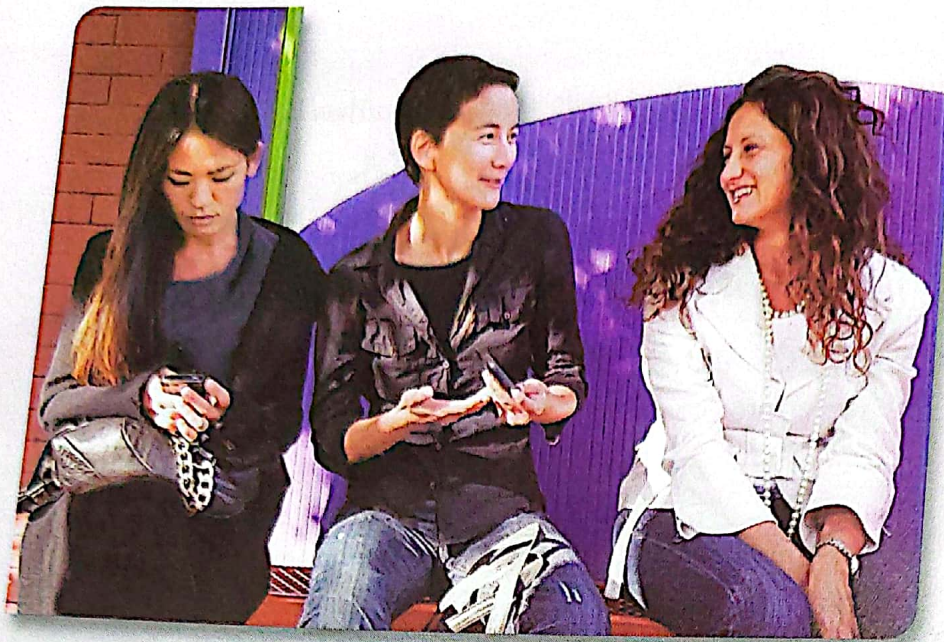
▲ a smart phone



▲ Cons: What's bad about social networking?

Cons

- D Social networking can be bad for friendships, too. Some people spend a lot of time online or on their smart phone. They **stare** for hours at the **screen**. They have virtual friendships, but they don't spend much **face-to-face** time with friends.
- E Also, for several reasons, social networking can be dangerous. First, we don't always know the **real identity** of other people—who they really are. For example, a **teenager** thinks she is communicating with another teenage girl, but this person



- ▲ What's good about communication online or on a cell phone?
 What's good about face-to-face communication?

another person's identity. With another person's identity, they can steal money or get a passport, for example.

Conclusion

F Social networking is changing the way we communicate with other people. It's now possible to communicate with almost anyone, almost anywhere. But it's important to be careful. If we're careful, there are more pros than cons with this new way of being connected.

is really a 40-year-old man. Is this really her "friend"? Second, information about us on a social networking site is **public**. Many, many people can see it. For example, at work, the **boss** can find personal information about employees. Some employees lose their jobs because of this. A very serious problem is **identity theft**, when people use public information to steal

After You Read

7 **Identifying the Main Ideas** Complete the sentences. Choose the best answer.

- The main idea is that _____
 - there are many ways to communicate with other people
 - social networking is changing the way we communicate
 - social networking sites can help people to find a job or school
- The writer thinks that _____
 - social networking is usually good because it's easy to communicate with anyone
 - social networking is usually bad because it's dangerous
 - there are more good things than bad things about social networking, if we're careful

Cell Phones Save Lives

Before You Read



- 1 Making Predictions** Skim the title and photos in the next essay. Who are these people? What is happening in each picture? What do you think the essay is about?
- 2 Previewing Vocabulary** Read the words in the list. They are words from the next reading. Listen to their pronunciation. Do not look them up in a dictionary. Check (✓) the words that you don't know.

Nouns Noun Phrases

- avalanche
- blood
- emergency
- flashlight
- GPS
- healthcare workers
- hike/hikers
- hospitals

- snow
- villages

Verbs/Verb Phrases

- find (found)
- get (got) lost
- save lives

Adjectives

- pregnant

Adverb

- suddenly

Read



- 3 Reading an Essay** Read the following essay quickly. As you read, use the pictures to help with new words. Then do the exercises.

Cell Phones Save Lives

A How do people use their cell phones? They can socialize: they talk with family and friends. They can use them for entertainment: they play games and watch movies. They use them as a video camera. They use them as an address book and to read their email. Also, these days, people use cell phones to **save lives**.

B Many small **villages** in Rwanda, in Africa, are far from cities. There are no doctors or **hospitals**. What happens when a **pregnant** woman or new mother has a health problem? These days, the government is giving cell phones to **healthcare workers**. They can call a doctor with their questions. The doctor gives them directions, and they can help the woman.



▲ Healthcare worker
a pregnant woman

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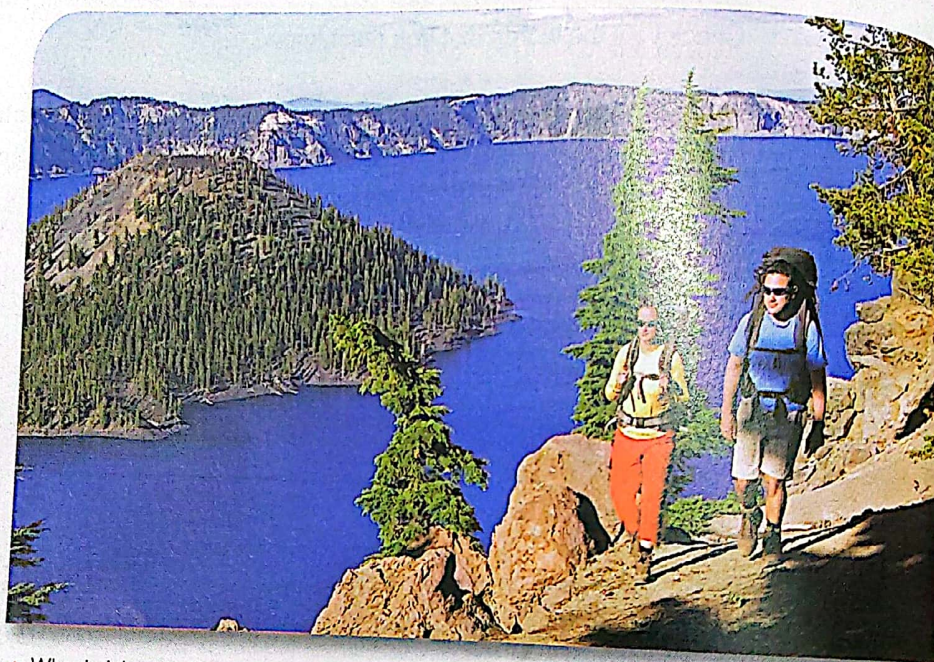
▲ Healthcare workers help a pregnant woman.

C All over the world, people use cell phones in an **emergency**. A cell phone can be a **flashlight**. Some new cell phones can check a person's heart or **blood**. Some can send health information to and from the doctor. Also, many cell phones have a **GPS**. This helps emergency workers to **find** lost people.

D All **hikers** need a cell phone. It can save their lives. In New Zealand, for example, two tourists



A cell phone can be used as a flashlight.



▲ Why do hikers in the mountains need a cell phone?

Culture Note

Emergency Numbers by Country

Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay, the U.S.

911

Europe

112

Japan

110 (police)

119 (medical help)

What number do you call?

from Taiwan were on a **hike** in the mountains. They got **lost**. It was dark and raining. The National Park Police found them because of the GPS in their cell phones. In Washington State, in the United States, a hiker from Britain was on Granite Mountain. **Suddenly**, there was an **avalanche**. The hiker was under many feet of **snow**. There, under the snow, he found his cell phone. He called 911. Emergency workers found him five hours later.

E A cell phone is more than a phone. It lets us communicate with family and friends, of course. But in an emergency, it is also a real life saver.

What can you do in an avalanche? ▶

