C1 - The pros and cons of the internet

Discourse markers, modals for speculation or opinion

What are the differences?

Internet habits and opinions

1. How many hours a day do you spend online, and what do you usually do?
2. What would your day look like without the internet?
3. Do you trust information you find online? Why or why not?
4. What is your opinion on children using the internet unsupervised?
5. Do you think the internet brings people closer together or pushes them apart?
6. Have you ever tried a "digital detox"? How did it go?
7. How has the internet changed how you learn or work?

What are some pros and cons of the net?

4

What are some pros and cons of the net?

Pros: **Cons:**

Maria's login problem

Maria had always been proud of her independence. She had lived through power outages, post office queues, and raising three children on her own. But in recent years, she had started feeling like a stranger in a world that moved too fast — and too online. Her bank had closed its local branch and now "strongly encouraged" online banking. Her doctor's office had introduced an app for booking appointments. Her grandchildren rarely called; they preferred sending photos on something called WhatsApp.

Last week, Maria spent nearly an hour trying to pay her electricity bill online. She couldn't remember her password, and when she clicked "Forgot Password?", a confusing maze of steps followed. "Select all the images that show traffic lights," the website asked. Maria squinted at the tiny photos. Were those lights, or part of a crane?

Later, she accidentally posted a grocery list on her Facebook timeline, thinking she was saving it to her notes. Her niece commented, "LOL Granny is wild!" Maria didn't understand the joke. "I'm not stupid," she told her daughter that evening. "But if everything keeps going digital, I'll need a degree just to live a normal life."

Choose the main reason for each question

1. **What is the main reason Maria struggles with digital tasks?**

   a. She doesn't have internet access at home.

   b. She is afraid of technology.

   c. She wasn't taught how to use digital systems and finds them confusing.

   d. Her children don't help her with technology.

2. **How does Maria feel when she uses online systems like banking or appointment apps?**

   a. Empowered and modern.

   b. Frustrated and excluded.

   c. Excited but unsure.

   d. Indifferent.

Choose the main reason for each question

3. What does Maria mean when she says, "I'll need a degree just to live a normal life"?

  a. She wants to go back to university.

  b. She believes only educated people can live normal lives.

  c. She feels the modern world has become too complicated.

  d. She wants her granddaughter to teach her everything.

4. Why does Maria mention her grocery list incident on Facebook?

  a. To show she doesn't know how to write lists.

  b. To show how easy it is to make digital mistakes.

  c. To explain why she doesn't use Facebook.

  d. To make fun of herself.

Match the internet and tech terms

Word / phrase:

Digital native

User-friendly

Tech-savvy

Phishing

Log in / log out

Online footprint

Definition:

a. A method of tricking people into giving private information.

b. To enter or exit a digital account.

c. All the data and traces you leave online.

d. Easy to use or navigate.

e. A person who grew up using the internet and digital devices.

f. Skilled or comfortable with using technology.

Fill in the blanks using the keywords. You may need to change the form slightly.

phishing	log in	online footprint	tech-savvy	user-friendly	digital native

1. My grandmother isn't very _____, so I usually help her set up her apps.

2. That new health app is surprisingly _____ — even I figured it out in two minutes.

3. You should be careful about what you post online. Your _____ could affect future job opportunities.

4. He's a _____ — he's been using a tablet since he was four.

5. Never click on suspicious email links. It could be a _____ attempt to steal your details.

6. I can't check my emails until I _____ to the Wi-Fi network.

Useful discussion phrases

Function	Useful phrase
Agreeing	"Absolutely, I couldn't agree more."
	"That's a valid point."
Disagreeing	"I see your point, but I'm not sure I agree."
	"I have to respectfully disagree."
Expressing surprise	"Seriously?"
	"I didn't expect that at all."
	"That's quite surprising."
Asking for clarification	"Sorry, what do you mean by …?"
	"Could you explain that another way please?"
Interrupting / changing topic	"Can I just jump in for a second?"
	"Speaking of that, can we talk about …"

The internet does more harm than good

Instructions:

1. Divide yourselves into two groups: **For** and **Agains**t the statement.
2. Each team prepares 3–4 arguments and 1 rebuttal strategy.
3. Encourage the use of useful discussion phrases and second conditional (e.g., "If we didn't have the internet, this wouldn't be an issue.")
4. One student from each side presents, then rebuttal round, then closing statements.
5. Class votes on the most convincing side — not necessarily who they agree with.

Thank you for your support.

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