

## The millennials not using social media

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### 1 Warmer

Are you on social media? If so, which social media accounts do you have?

How do you use social media?

How much time do you spend each day on social media?

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

millennial  
impromptu

scrutiny  
drawback

baby boomer  
literally

overload  
relish

intimacy  
cite

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who was born towards the end of the twentieth century.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who was born in the decade after the Second World War.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a close personal relationship.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a situation when you have too much of something and you are no longer able to deal with it.
5. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you mention it as an example, explanation or proof of something else.
6. The word \_\_\_\_\_ is used for showing that what you are saying is really true and is not just an impressive way of describing something.
7. An \_\_\_\_\_ decision is one that is not planned in advance.
8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you get great pleasure or satisfaction from it.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the careful examination of something or somebody.
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a feature of something that makes it less useful than it could be.

#### 3 Find the person

The text concerns four people who don't use social media. Find, as quickly as possible, which person the follow statements refer to.

1. This person has concerns about giving out delete personal data.
2. This person has only used social media once.
3. This person felt that social media was too much to cope with.
4. This person wanted to make time to enjoy other activities.

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#### 'Everyone could know what I was doing': the millennials not using social media

*75% of millennials have created at least one social media account – which makes the small percentage who don't tweet or Instagram an unconventional group*

**Ellen Brait**

**17 March, 2016**

That millennials rely heavily on technology is no secret. More than eight in ten say they sleep with a mobile phone by their bed, almost two thirds admit to texting while driving, one in five has posted a video of themselves online and three quarters have created a profile on a social networking site.

Compared to other generations, millennials are the most active on social media, according to a 2010 report, with 75% of them having created at least one social media account. In contrast, only 50% of Generation X, 30% of baby boomers and 6% of those aged 65 and older use social media. But there is a small percentage of millennials who don't use social media at all. Meet the millennials bucking the trend.

#### **Celan Beausoleil, 31, Oakland, California**

Beausoleil is a social worker and has had an "on and off, more off than on" relationship with Facebook. She last deactivated her account in December 2015 after finding the amount of personal information shared by others "too heavy" to deal with on top of her work demands.

"A lot of my job is listening to people's lives all day, every day and it started to feel so overwhelming to go on social media and see every single detail of everybody's life, including people that I don't really have a relationship with," she said. "It feels almost like intimacy overload." She added: "I'm holding a lot in my work life for people and sometimes it felt like it was too heavy to do in my personal life also."

But Beausoleil does love the way social media connects the world in a truly unique way, citing it as one of her only reasons for staying on Facebook for as long as she did. "One thing I really liked about Facebook was that I could sit for hours and click on a friend and then click on one of their friends and one of their friends and one of their friends and literally end up on someone's Facebook page from the other side of the world," she said. "I used to do that all the time."

#### **Jason Mathias, 26, Baltimore, Maryland**

"One day, I realized I'm spending so much time doing this. These little seconds add up. I wonder what it would be like if I didn't spend these seconds here and spent them doing something else. What if I was doing other things with these seconds? What would they become? Would I enjoy it?"

Mathias, who works for the Baltimore City government, had Facebook and Twitter accounts for years before deleting them both in November 2012. But he "quickly forgot that Facebook existed" after his impromptu decision to end his social media presence. He can still appreciate the benefits that come with having social media accounts, like when he met his girlfriend's friends for the first time and realized "humanizing 20 people you're meeting at a party" is much easier if you can connect their faces, hometowns and jobs to a photo later on. Or how easy it is to organize large events online. Mathias relies on friends for party invites and is sure there are times he "slips through the cracks".

But, now, he relishes the time that's freed up. He spends his lift rides and spare moments at work reading news articles and books rather than scrolling through a newsfeed. And with no friends' accounts to follow online, he has to "pick up the phone and call them", something he's come to "definitely enjoy".

#### **Lauren Raskauskas, 22, Naples, Florida**

Raskauskas describes herself as a "pretty private" person. So social media, which can open you up to the scrutiny and analysis of others, is not that appealing to her. "I'm more privacy-minded and have concerns about giving out my data," said Raskauskas, who is currently looking for a job.

She recently deleted her Twitter account and deactivated her Facebook account two years ago after realizing she "didn't like everyone knowing what I was doing". But Raskauskas, who was late to the Facebook game because her "parents were really strict with technology", can see the positive sides of social media. When a friend of hers that she'd lost track of moved to Naples for a month, Raskauskas didn't even realize she was there until after she'd left, which the 22-year-old said "was a bummer".

But in the end, her privacy concerns outweighed any benefits social media could provide and she saw a definite upside when she went through a recent break-up. The last time a relationship of hers ended and she was online, it was not pleasant.

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“One time, I did break up with somebody while I was on Facebook and I was like ‘Oh my gosh, should I change my profile photo? Should I change my status?’ And, this time, I don’t have to worry about any of that because that kind of stuff is pretty hard,” she said.

**Hariharan Rajagopalan, 18,  
Boston, Massachusetts**

Rajagopalan, a student at Boston College, doesn’t see any drawbacks to abstaining from social media. He claims that he “hasn’t seen any effect at this point”. Even though classmates post about parties and events on Facebook, they make sure to send him a text message, too, he said. “Since I was young, I was always a step behind on that kind of thing so it never really mattered to me,” he said.

In fact, the only time Rajagopalan made use of social media was when it was unavoidable: it was the only

way to reach his new roommate at college. Before starting his first year at college, he signed up for his first, and only, social media account. He joined Facebook in order to contact his future roommate and talk about their plans for that year.

Months later, he still has the account but he admits: “I don’t use it. I don’t check it or anything like that.” The most activity it sees is when his two sisters tag him in family photos. He has avoided social media accounts in all other situations, though he has felt the draw of Twitter. As a sports fan, he acknowledged that “it’s where most of the news breaks out”. But he refused to get an account, stating: “I don’t really need one to read tweets”.

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### 4 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. Why did Celan stay on social media for as long as she did?
  - a. because she enjoyed listening to people’s lives every day
  - b. because she liked reading about people on the other side of the world
  - c. because she enjoyed seeing every single detail of everybody’s life
2. What does Jason like best about giving up social media?
  - a. the fact that he now gets more party invites
  - b. the fact that he now has more free time to devote to reading
  - c. the fact that he has no friends’ accounts to follow online
3. Why did Lauren deactivate her Facebook account?
  - a. because she didn’t like everyone knowing what she was doing
  - b. because her parents were really strict about technology
  - c. because she had gone through a recent break-up
4. Why did Hariharan join Facebook?
  - a. because he wanted to get information about parties and events
  - b. because he wanted to look at family photos
  - c. because he wanted to contact his future roommate at college

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#### 5 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a three-word verb phrase meaning *succeed in doing something even though there is a general tendency for this not to happen* (intro)
2. an adjective meaning *so strong that you cannot think or behave normally* (Celan)
3. a four-word verb phrase meaning *escape notice* (Jason)
4. a three-word verb phrase meaning *not know where someone is or what they are doing because you have not communicated with them for a long time* (Lauren)
5. a noun meaning *something that is annoying or disappointing* (Lauren)
6. a verb meaning *be more important, useful or valuable than something else* (Lauren)
7. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *deliberately avoid doing something that is enjoyable but may not be healthy, safe or morally right* (Hariharan)
8. a verb meaning *create a link to someone's profile on social media* (Hariharan)

#### 6 Phrasal verbs

Match the phrasal verbs from the text with their meanings.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. scroll through | a. to experience something difficult or unpleasant                          |
| 2. end up         | b. to give a lot of people information about something                      |
| 3. give out       | c. to end a relationship  |
| 4. go through     | d. to move information through a computer screen in order to read it        |
| 5. break up       | e. to agree to do something   |
| 6. sign up for    | f. to be in a particular place after doing something or because of doing it |

#### 7 Word-building

Fill the gaps in the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

1. Lauren describes herself as \_\_\_\_\_ - minded. [PRIVATE]
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ her Facebook account two years ago. [ACTIVE]
3. The only time Hariharan made use of social media was when it was \_\_\_\_\_. [AVOID]
4. Celan has an on-off \_\_\_\_\_ with Facebook. [RELATE]
5. She thinks that social media connects the world in a \_\_\_\_\_ unique way. [TRUE]
6. Jason decided to end his social media \_\_\_\_\_. [PRESENT]

#### 8 Discussion

Discuss the statements.

- I would never give up social media. It's far too important to me.
- Mobile technology means that people don't talk to each other anymore and that's a tragedy.
- Facebook and Twitter are so old-fashioned that I don't use them anymore.

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#### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. millennial
2. baby boomer
3. intimacy
4. overload
5. cite
6. literally
7. impromptu
8. relish
9. scrutiny
10. drawback

#### 3 Find the person

11. Lauren
12. Hariharan
13. Celan
14. Jason

#### 4 Comprehension check

15. b
16. b
17. a
18. c

#### 5 Find the word

19. buck the trend
20. overwhelming
21. slip through the cracks
22. lose track of
23. bummer
24. outweigh
25. abstain from
26. tag

#### 6 Phrasal verbs

27. d
28. f
29. b
30. a
31. c
32. e

#### 7 Word-building

33. privacy
34. deactivated
35. unavoidable
36. relationship
37. truly
38. presence