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## Are Online Relationships Real?

By Linda Johnson.

[1] Well, this is a topic that is close to my heart. My family and friends are always worrying about me because more and more of my life exist online. They keep telling me I should get out more. They say I need a life. I tell them I have a life, it's just different from theirs!

What do they have that I don't? Well, let's explore that question.

They have lots of visitors to their homes; but fewer than I do. Every time I write an article for my website, I'm talking to thousands of people. (the difference is, I don't have to clean my house after my visitors have left!)

[2] They have relationships that require a lot of time and effort. Not me. I have many more friends than they do, but mine don't interrupt me when I'm talking. Mine don't care what I look like. Mine don't judge me by anything other than how I treat them. And mine don't fall out with when I'm late.

[3] They have obligations that keep them running in circles... this appointment, that date, this arrangement, that party. Not me. I just sit at my computer with a hot cup of coffee and relax.

I agree that we all need some kind of human interaction and we can't do all our communicating through a keyboard. I have a job that requires that I get out of the house and interact in the 'real' world. But is this the most fulfilling part of my life? Not at all. Most of my most fulfilling experiences recently have been with people I know through the internet.

For example, I work regularly with a team of computer experts who writes articles for this website. I've never even seen most of these people, but they feel like true friends to me: friends that live all over the world, friends I wouldn't know if it wasn't for the internet. True, I would love to meet them in the real life. But even if I don't, these people remain very real and dear to me, because I really know them. I certainly know them better than the guy who lives next door to me with whom I have nothing in common.

[4] So, my answer to the question 'Are internet relationships real?' is YES, YES, YES. And don't let your families and 'real' friends convince you differently. Just because you can't see someone, doesn't mean you can't care about them. The internet allows you the opportunity to know someone for who they are and not for how they look or how they dress. In some ways, the people you know on the internet are more real than the ones you pass on the street.

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A. Decide what type of text it is.

2pts.

- 1- A newspaper report.
- 2- An online article.
- 3- An informal letter.

B. Are these statements true or false? Justify.

4pts.

1. The writer's family are worried that she has too many friends.

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2. A lot of people read the writer's articles online.

.....

3. The writer knows some of her online friends better than she knows her neighbours.

.....

4. The writer thinks that it's difficult to care about somebody you've never met face to face.

.....

C. Answer the following questions.

3pts

1-What's the main difference between the writer online friends and her family's friends'.

.....

2-According to the writer, what obligations do her family and friends have?

.....

3-What kind of job does the writer have?

.....

D. Find in the text words or phrases that means almost the same as:

3pts

1-To have a big quarrel (paragraph2): .....

2-Do not share any interests or opinions (paragraph3): .....

3-permit (paragraph 4): .....

E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

3pts

1. me (paragraph1): .....

2. They (paragraph2): .....

3. These people (paragraph3).....

I. Language. 15 pts.

A. Rewrite the direct speech as reported speech. 3pts

1. 'I didn't finish the report yesterday,' said Rebecca.

Rebeca said.....

2. 'I'm having problems with my computer,' Anna said.

Anna said.....

3. 'I haven't been able to log on internet this week,' Anna told Ben.

Anna told Ben .....

B. Report the questions. 3pts

1-"Do like my dress?"

Jane asked her dad.....

2-"When can you help me?"

Tom asked her brother .....

3-"Have you seen my MP3 player?"

Dave asked his sister.....

C. Complete the sentences with your own ideas. 3pts

1. If I had 3,000 £ for a holiday, I .....

2. If I could live anywhere in the world, I .....

3. If I fell out with my best friend, I .....

D. Put the words in the correct order to make reported questions 2pts

1-he / a drink / him / wanted / asked / if /she

.....

2-going / her / asked / she / they / was / where

.....

E. Rewrite the sentences with the correct form of phrasal verbs .2pts

got back together- got on well- fell out- asked somebody out

1. My best friend has always had a good relationship with my brother.

.....

2. One day she told me that he had invited her to a concert.

.....

3. I was furious and I had a big argument with my friend.

.....

4. Eventually they started their relationship again.

.....

F. Complete the sentences with the materials 2pts.

Fabric    glass    leather    marble    wood

1-..... is a type of hard stone.

2-..... is a material made from animal skin.

3-..... is used for making clothes.

4-..... is used for making windows and bottles.

