Lesson 12 15 December 2014

**The Pros and Cons of Facebook**

*[adapted from http://nobullying.com/pros-and-cons-of-facebook]*

[Cyber Safety](http://nobullying.com/category/cyber-safety/)

Cons

**Privacy**

[Before you get mad at Facebook, think about what you’re doing.](http://nobullying.com/faqs-about-privacy-policy/) Anything and everything someone will see you post on the internet whether you know the person or not, whether you delete the status post, picture or video. If you are not careful, hackers can gain access to your account and cause major issues.

**Time Consumption**

[Facebook can be time consuming, and it’s a complaint that many parents have](http://nobullying.com/facebook-addiction-addicted-to-social-media-posting/). You may want your child to play outside, but they are glued to the computer monitor. Facebook allows its account holders to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, play games, and create groups. Facebook is available on the PC and mobile phones that make it difficult to get your children away from Facebook. Homework becomes an issue when students are consumed by social media.

**Freedom of Speech & Expression**

[Many children, teens, and adults fall victim to freedom of speech and expression](http://nobullying.com/school-bullying-and-free-speech/). People can post pictures, videos, and statuses that are offensive to others, and they can tag them in the post. Tagging is a form of adding friends to a conversation or status on Facebook. When a report is made, Facebook looks into the matter, but their response time is not always immediate which means friends and friends of friends have time to share and comment on the post. This takes Facebook more time to remove all traces of the post.

**Issues with Bullying**

Bullying is a concern that many Facebook users encounter. [Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that occurs via internet and can sometimes cause problems in person.](http://nobullying.com/what-is-cyberbullying/) Children can be mean, and they may post cruel statuses. Parents are concerned because the cases of children committing suicide due to cyberbullying on social networks are increasing.

**The Case of the Mirage**

There are a few disadvantages of Facebook, but one of the most common disadvantages are fake pages. On Facebook, a lot of things are not what they seem, and people are not who they appear to be. [Some fake Facebook accounts are hackers who are trying to steal our personal information.](http://nobullying.com/impersonation/)

**Facebook is Addictive**

When you are weighing the Facebook pros and cons, consider addiction. One thing most Facebook users face is addiction. There are many addictive games on this social network, such as Gourmet Ranch, Dessert Shop, Farmville, and Chefville. There are groups for these games that allow users to add new users to their account and help them play the game. Most of the games on Facebook have a community.

**Image Issues**

[When a picture is uploaded to Facebook, it is public for the world to see.](http://nobullying.com/photos-safety/) This is primary concern for parents because their child’s picture can be downloaded and misused. All profile pictures are public, just as a cover page is public.

**Future Regrets**

Many parents are making their children stop using Facebook due to future regrets. Teenagers may post pictures of their friends at parties and other places that can come back and haunt them later, especially when they are applying for college. Many adults have lost their job due to posts they made on Facebook.

Pros

**Easy to Use**

[Facebook is one of the easiest social media networks to use.](http://nobullying.com/bullying-is-the-new-danger-on-facebook/)  Creating a Facebook profile is easy, and the site suggests people you may know based on age, high school you attended, college, place of employment, and people you may already have as friends.

**Making the Connection**

Facebook allows people to connect with friends and relatives who live far away. With new features, such as video, voice, and a calling feature, communicating with friends and family has never been easier.

[**Sharing Can be Caring**](http://nobullying.com/facebook-vs-the-bully-who-wins/)

When Facebook is used correctly, it can be empowering, educational, and fun. Facebook is a place where you can share your ideas, thoughts, causes, and get feedback from other Facebook users who are interested in the same things as you.

**Enhancing Social Skills**

Facebook gives people the power to make friends and meet new people from all around the world. Facebook allows your child to become friends with children who share the same interests. Having something in common with another person, regardless of the distance between you, is great. Being friends with people overseas or a few states away gives children the opportunity to learn about new cultures and traditions another person has in their family.

**Educational Purposes**

Homework can be completed in a matter of hours when Facebook is used how it was intended. [Classmates can work on homework assignments together and share ideas.](http://nobullying.com/facebook-users-shocking-stories-cyber-safety-gone-wrong/) Discussing school assignments are easy and convenient. Many teachers are starting to use Facebook to help students keep up with projects and homework assignments that are due for a week.

**Great Chatting Technology**

Before Facebook, there was Yahoo and MSN messenger. Now that Facebook is here, these messengers are in the past. You can chat with anyone using Facebook. Whether you are on your phone, tablet, PC or other device, have fun sending pictures and audio to your friends and family.

**Promoting Your Business**

Opening a business is difficult, but with Facebook, it can be easier than you may have thought. Facebook allows business owners to create a business Facebook page to gain more customers and expand their business. With Facebook business, you can expand your customer base by advertising on Facebook and entice people to try your product or services. For a small fee, Facebook allows you to customize an ad that describes your business and add a picture for the world to see. Once the ad is approved, it will be viewable by users who fall into the target audience you suggest. The target audience is the ideal person or customer for your business. You can set your target audience by defining the age, location, and marital status of the type of person you would like to attract.

**Good Way to Pass Time**

If you’re waiting in line, at the doctor’s office, or another place where you will be waiting a long time, Facebook is the cure to your boredom. There are different games you can download on your phone and play with your friends and family via Facebook. Before you know it, you will advance in many different games and interact with your friends and relatives through games that you both play.