

Example of an article

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Online friendships – true or false? 1

In recent years, technology has taken over our daily lives. Many people claim that they simply couldn't imagine a life without the internet and social media. So are your online friendships doing you more harm than good? 2

It has become commonplace in our society to argue that technology is the reason for people being socially distant and experiencing loneliness. 3 Some studies do show a correlation between social media usage and low self-esteem, although there is no solid proof showing that this is the main cause. Indeed, others have come to the defence of the internet and claim it has done the opposite – helped to revive social relationships. Some people find it easier to form relationships when they are hidden behind a screen. 4 It allows them to be themselves without fear of rejection, ridicule and judgement. Soon, they become confident enough to merge their virtual personalities with their offline personalities, becoming a more authentic version of themselves.

5 However, it can be said that online relationships are weaker and not as real as face-to-face relationships. Online relationships are formed easily and quickly. They're not the same as a physical relationship. You might not know anything about an online friend other than the things they choose to post on the internet. Unless you make a point of communicating with all of them for at least two hours every week, you can't even call it a real friendship. The strength of an offline relationship lies in the experiences you share together in the real world.

True, it could be argued that online relationships are not particularly meaningful, but saying that social media friendships are false is not correct. 'You and your real friends may not 6 always be able to meet in person,' explains one lifestyle expert. Social media can be used to keep in touch and ensure that your

1 The learner uses a heading that is relevant to the topic of the article.

2 The learner introduces the topic in the first paragraph and uses a rhetorical question to engage the reader.

3 The paragraph identifies contrasting viewpoints, making it clear where there is support for one view or another.

4 The learner is trying to vary sentence structure and vocabulary.

5 The learner uses an appropriate linking word at the beginning of the paragraph to show they are about to offer a new contrasting argument.

6 The learner develops the argument that online friendships are

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relationship stays in tact until the next time you meet, and where else can you bond over silly and fun things like memes and cute cat videos? Your social media friendship ensures that no matter how far apart you are, you can always be there for each other. 7

useful and supports it by reference to a quotation from an expert.

7 Having discussed a number of the arguments, the learner leaves the reader with a strong impression of the value of social media friendships.