Social media ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- How has social media changed the way you keep in touch?
- Have you ever taken a break from social media? How did it feel?
- What do you find annoying about the way people post?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
influencer	a person who is paid to promote products on social media	She's a fitness influencer.
content	the videos, photos and texts people post online	He creates content for YouTube.
go viral	to spread very quickly online	Her video went viral.
trending	being talked about by a lot of people online right now	What's trending today?
fake news	false stories that look like real news	Fake news spreads quickly online.
privacy	the right to keep your personal life secret	I worry about my privacy online.
cyberbullying	using the internet to hurt or frighten someone	Cyberbullying is a serious problem in schools.
troll	a person who posts rude messages to upset people	Don't reply to trolls.
screen time	the time you spend looking at a screen	I'm trying to reduce my screen time.
digital detox	a period when you stop using phones and computers	I did a week-long digital detox.

Grammar focus (10 min): Linking ideas: although, despite, in spite of, whereas

Emma writes a review of her holiday in Wales: "Although it rained every day, we had a wonderful time. Despite the weather, we went hiking. My husband loved the mountains, whereas I preferred the beaches." By the end of this lesson you can link contrasting ideas in different ways.

Form	Pattern	Example
Although	although / even though + clause	Although it rained, we had fun.
Despite	despite / in spite of + noun / -ing	Despite the rain, we had fun.
Whereas	whereas / while + different fact	I like tea, whereas he likes coffee.
However	. However, ...	It was old. However, it was clean.

Watch for: ~~Despite it was late, we continued.~~ → **Although it was late, we continued. / Despite the late hour, we continued.**. Despite + noun / -ing.

Speaking (15 min): Rewrite the rules

The learner is put in charge of a social network for a day and may introduce three rules. They explain each rule and who would complain. You argue from the point of view of a user who loses out.

Useful language

- to post · to share · to follow · to block
- I spend too much time on...
- It depends how you use it.
- It went viral.
- a feed · a comment · a notification · a filter
- On the one hand... on the other hand...

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about social media using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the B1 social media vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Social media (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

unfollowed · anonymous · algorithm · stay in touch · keep up with · filter · showing off · sponsored

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. Social media helps me _____ with family abroad.
2. I _____ him.
3. The _____ shows me what I like.
4. That's a _____ post.
5. The comments were _____.
6. She uses a _____ on every selfie.
7. I use Twitter to _____ the news.
8. He's always _____ his car online.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Have you ever met someone in person after knowing them online?
2. Do people show their real life online?
3. What do you learn from social media, if anything?
4. Would you let a child have an account? At what age?
5. Which platform would you miss least?

Write

Write 80–120 words about social media. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 stay in touch · 2 unfollowed · 3 algorithm · 4 sponsored · 5 anonymous · 6 filter · 7 keep up with · 8 showing off