

## THEME 8 DIGITAL ERA READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

### A. Read the comments again and decide who is saying the sentences below. Write Heather (H), Dennis (D) or Luna (L).

**Heather :** Despite the risks like cyberbullying and identity theft, social media has become an essential part of modern life, and no one can deny that it has some advantages. For instance, as an introvert, it makes it easier for me to make friends. I develop better social skills and feel less isolated. My classmates say that I have come out of my shell. Through social media, I get different perspectives to understand the world around me. I also learn new digital literacy skills. I am a screenager who uses technology responsibly, respectfully and safely. I accept friend requests only from the people I know. I block and report the people who post upsetting comments. Appropriate online behaviour is really important.

**Dennis :** Can you spend a day entirely free from the digital world? Would it make you feel bitter or better? Many people want to stay plugged in seven days a week, but I really believe in the power of unplugging once a week. Without social media, I reduce my exposure to the amount of bad and fake news. I laugh a lot more on that magic day without screens and enjoy every minute of my time with my family. I read and think freely without any interruption. I even sleep better. It feels like a holiday, so I get a full reset every week.

**Luna :** I'm a special education teacher working with disabled teens. My main goal is to make a difference by helping my talented students. I provide them with the proper resources to improve their abilities, so I often burn the midnight oil. Social media really plays an important role in my career, and it opens up a big world of communication for me. It also enables the teens with disabilities to connect with the others who face similar challenges. By joining an online group with a common interest, they can hang out with peers even as they sit in their living rooms. Social media platforms break down barriers of time and space.

1. Live in the moment, not in the cloud. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Social media gives a voice to voiceless people. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Doing a digital detox makes me feel awesome. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Netiquette, a set of online rules, is a must and everything you post is a reflection of you. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I'm trying to overcome shyness and social anxiety. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I generally stay up late to select appropriate resources for my classes. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Read the anecdote and answer the questions.

#### **The Importance of Netiquette Rules**

When Dustin was in 10th grade, he did something very wrong. He posted his friend James's photo on social media without his permission. James was upset with him because he broke one of the netiquette rules: "Be careful what you post." James called Dustin and said: "If you don't remove the photo, I will report your account, and you will be banned." Dustin refused, saying that the photo went viral and became a meme on the Net. They met the next day, and James told Dustin that there would be serious consequences for his actions. He reported Dustin's account. Dustin would never create another account on that site again. Then, he was removed from their circle of friends. Dustin realised that he had to follow netiquette rules if he wanted to maintain healthy relationships both online and offline.

1. What is the one netiquette rule that Dustin broke?
2. What did James want Dustin to do?
3. Why did Dustin refuse James?
4. What did Dustin realise?