

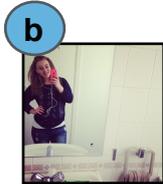


Unit 6: Selfies

A Warm-up

1. How often do you use your camera phone? What do you usually take photos of?
2. Do you ever take “selfies” (photos of yourself)?
3. Match the photos with the selfie type.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The beach legs selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> The duck-face selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> The pet-lover selfie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The workout selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> The “Look-where-I-am” selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> The party selfie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The “Look-who-I-met” selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> The bathroom mirror selfie | |



4. Which of these selfies have you taken?

B Vocabulary

1. Match the words from the Academic Word List with their definitions.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| a) indicate (v) | ___ a sudden and extreme change |
| b) globally (adv) | ___ something that is currently popular or fashionable |
| c) document (v) | ___ numbers that represent information |
| d) innovations (n) | ___ new ideas and methods |
| e) revolution (n) | ___ to show |
| f) statistics (n) | ___ by |
| g) trend (n) | ___ around the world |
| h) via (adv) | ___ to create a record of something, through writing, photography, etc. |

2. Phrasal verb focus: *come around and catch on*. Match the meaning to its use in a sentence.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Recover consciousness. | a) start to understand |
| b) To be converted to another person's way of thinking. | b) to become popular |
| c) (of a date or event) to be happening again soon. | c) to accidentally get entangled (on something) |
| ___ It's October! Halloween is coming around. | ___ My sweater got caught on a nail. |
| ___ The boxer was unconscious for three minutes, but then he started to come around. | ___ At first I couldn't understand my teacher's English, but after a week of classes I started to catch on. |
| ___ My parents originally didn't like my new boyfriend, but I think they are starting to come around. They invited him to dinner this week. | ___ That new Justin Bieber song is catching on in Japan. |

3. Personalization

- Do you usually follow fashion trends?
- What symptoms indicate that you have a cold?
- Which do you think is a more important cell phone innovation, the camera or the touchscreen?
- When you travel, do you take photos to document your trip?
- Do you communicate with your friends more via LINE or Facebook?

C While Reading

Complete the following exercises while reading the article on the next page.

- Look at the title of the article on the next page. What do you think it means?
- Fill in the blanks with the words from Vocabulary exercise 1.
- Find the phrasal verb *come around*, and circle it. Can you find another phrase that starts with *come*?
- Find a verb that goes with *a visit* and *attention*.

Rise of the Selfie



The selfie isn't new. It has been around since the beginning of photography, when photographer Robert Cornelius took one in 1839. But in the past few years, selfies have become increasingly popular.

Like many changes in our society, the rise of the selfie began with _____ in technology. Until recently, photography was an expensive and difficult hobby. In the 1990's however, digital cameras changed photography, making it easy to take and erase photos without spending lots of money on developing film. As smartphones caught on, many people started carrying cameras around in their pockets. Photos were easily taken and shared _____ email, or uploaded to social networks. Then in 2010 Apple released a new version of the iPhone with a front-facing camera, and the selfie _____ started. "Selfie" was the Oxford Dictionary's word of the year for 2013, and it is now thought that 93 million selfies are taken _____ each day.

Why do people take selfies? For one thing, it's so easy to do. They are a simple and free souvenir of the big and small events in our lives. They can also be a way to tell a story through social networking. Instead of typing that you're paying a visit to Disneyland, a selfie of you with Cinderella's castle in the background can _____ exactly where you are and what you're doing.

Occasionally, selfies can be part of a social movement or charity, for example when thousands of women posted "no make-up

selfies" to social media sites to raise money and awareness for cancer research.



But we must realise that at the heart of the selfie boom is people's desire for attention. Many young people look for any reason to post a photo of themselves online. However, it's not only regular people who take part in this _____. Many celebrities have come around and now frequently post self portraits to their social media accounts, and selfies with fans have replaced autographs.

Selfies are most commonly criticised for their association with narcissism, but recently a new problem has developed. According to international _____, selfies are now responsible for more worldwide deaths than shark attacks. Sometimes these deaths are caused by the photographer doing something dangerous, like taking a selfie on top of a moving train. Other times it's the person not paying attention to their surroundings when taking their picture. Almost all of these accidents occur to young people.

People see selfies as an expression of who they are and a way to _____ their life events. These photos have become an important part of our online lives, an activity that no one really thinks about anymore. It doesn't matter if you love them or hate them, selfies aren't going to disappear anytime soon.

Notes

narcissism

D Check Your Understanding

Circle true (T) or false (F) for the following statements about the article.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. The first selfie was taken quite recently. | T / F |
| 2. Selfies have never done anything good for society. | T / F |
| 3. Apple Computers helped start the selfie revolution. | T / F |
| 4. Selfies cause almost as many deaths as shark attacks. | T / F |
| 5. The selfie revolution will probably be finished soon. | T / F |

E What Do You Think?

1. What do you think about selfies? Circle your answers in the survey, then ask a partner for their answers.

Do you think...?

...taking selfies is fun?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...young people take too many selfies?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...people who take selfies are narcissistic?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...the selfie trend will eventually go away?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...some people take unnecessary risks for selfies?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...other people's selfies are annoying?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...it's possible for selfies to be "artistic"?	Yes	No	I'm not sure
...selfie sticks should be banned?	Yes	No	I'm not sure

2. Further Discussion

1. What kinds of selfies have you taken?
2. Which kind of selfie do you think is most popular on social media?
3. What kinds of selfies are the most annoying?