

THE TASK AT HAND.- Communicative activities.

Situation

Read the text and listen to the situation.



Months fly and **Lourdes** and **Susana** have more and more friends that will definitely miss when they go back to Spain. One day, while having lunch at the canteen, **Kate Robertson**, one of the girls' closest friends in London, suggests creating a Facebook account so that they can be in touch when our adventurers go back home.



Susana: Facebook? Is it that famous webpage in which people share pictures?

Kate: Yes, that's the one! It's been running for some years already and it's the easiest way I know to gossip about people's life!

Lourdes: He, he... and what do we have to do to be on Facebook?

Kate: It's quite easy; you just enter the webpage and create a new account. Then, you choose a user name and a password and you are ready to have fun!

Susana: Oh, I see! This is like Tuenti in Spain!

Kate: Twenty? What's that?

Susana: No, no, it's T U E N T I (she spells). He, he. It's like facebook but it's just popular in Spain.

Lourdes: OK, sounds like fun! When we go back home later, we'll create our account... and now, a toast to our friendship! (the three girls take their coke cans).

Kate, Susana, and Lourdes: Yeah! Cheers! He, he, he (they laugh).

Think about it

Enter the forum and tell your classmates and tutor about it.

How important is friendship for you? How do you usually keep in touch with your friends? And with those that are far away? Have you got a Facebook or Tuenti account?



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[Aviso Legal](#)

1.- Reading Exercise.

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking service and website launched in February 2004, operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. In January 2011, Facebook **ranked** more than 600 million active users.

Users may create a personal profile, add other people as friends, and exchange messages, including automatic notifications when they update their **profile**. Facebook users must register before using the site. Additionally, users may join common-interest user groups, organized by workplace, school or college, or other characteristics.

The name of the service, facebook, stems from the colloquial name for the book given to students at the start of the academic year by university administrations in the United States to help students get to know each other better. Facebook allows any users who declare themselves to be at least 13 years old to become registered users of the website.

The origins of Facebook have been in dispute since the very week a 19-year-old Mark Zuckerberg launched the site as a Harvard **sophomore** on February 4, 2004. Then, called thefacebook.com, the site was an **instant hit**. Now, many years later, the site has become one of the biggest web sites in the world, visited by 400 million people a month.

The controversy surrounding Facebook began quickly. A week after he launched the site in 2004, Mark was accused by three Harvard seniors of having stolen the idea from them. This allegation soon bloomed into a **full-fledged lawsuit**, as a competing company founded by the Harvard **seniors** sued Mark and Facebook for theft and **fraud**, starting a legal odyssey that continues to this day.

New information uncovered by Silicon Alley Insider suggests that some of the complaints against Mark Zuckerberg are valid. It also suggests that, on at least one occasion in 2004, Mark used private logging data taken from Facebook's servers to break into Facebook members' private email accounts and read their emails, at best, a gross misuse of private information. Lastly, it suggests that Mark **hacked into** the competing company's systems and changed some user information with the aim of making the site less useful.

The primary dispute around Facebook's origins centered around whether Mark had entered into an agreement with the Harvard seniors, Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss and a classmate named Divya Narendra, to develop a similar web site for them - and then, instead, stole their project while taking their idea and building his own.

The **litigation** never went particularly well for the Winklevosses. In 2007, Massachusetts Judge Douglas P. Woodlock called their allegations "tissue thin." Referring to the agreement that Mark had allegedly **breached**, Woodlock also wrote, " **Dorm room chit-chat** does not make a contract." A year later, the end finally seemed in sight: a judge ruled against Facebook's move to **dismiss** the case. Shortly thereafter, the parties agreed to settle.



Now it's your turn

Answer the following questions. Facebook started in....

- January 2011.
- February 2007.
- February 4th, 2004.

The name "facebook" comes from...

- a popular TV show.
- a book with pictures that some schools give at the end of the academic year.
- the book given in the US to students at the beginning of the academic year so that they get to know their classmates better.

In which year was Zuckerberg at university when he founded Facebook?

- He was in his second year.
- He was in his first year.
- He was in his last year.

Woodlock is mentioned in the text because ...

- he was one of Zuckerberg's roommates at college.
- he was one of the judges working on Zuckerberg's case.

he was Zuckerberg's lawyer.

2.- Listening Exercise.

Situation

It's Sunday evening and the girls decide to stay at home and relax for the rest of the day. It's 6 p.m and while Susana has a shower, Lourdes decides to turn the TV on to watch a documentary on BBC news. To her surprise, today's programme is based on "The Social Network" a David Fincher movie based on the founder of Facebook.

Watch the video and read the transcript only after you have answered the questions.

[Talking Movies: A Facebook story. Text summary](#)



Now it's your turn

Watch the documentary again and answer these questions.



According to the programme, Mark Zuckerberg is today...

- 20 years old.
- 26 years old.
- 19 years old.

According to the video, how many versions of the story does the movie unfold?

- Two different versions.
- Just one version.
- Three different versions.

According to the director of the film, does the movie take a position?

- Yes, it does. It is in favor of Mark Zuckerberg.
- No, it doesn't. It leaves the spectator to decide.
- Not exactly, it is in favour of Mark Zuckerberg but it also shows the other two versions.

Why did the real Mark Zuckerberg appear on the Oprah Winfrey show?

- To comment on the movie.
- To earn some money and clean his public image.
- To announce that he was donating one hundred million dollars to schools in New Jersey.

Now you may go back and read the tapescript.

3.- Speaking Exercise.

Think about it

Think for a while about these questions.

- ✓ What do you think about Social Networks? Do you think they are useful? Why/ Why not?
- ✓ Have you got a Facebook or Tuenti account? Why?/ Why not? If yes, how often do you use it?
- ✓ Do you think it can be dangerous to share some personal data on the internet?



Now it's your turn

Give your personal opinion about the questions above. Remember that speaking is not reading so try to sound natural. Use the expressions in unit 3 session 1 to help you.

4.- Writing Exercise.

You watched Mark Zuckerberg's interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show and you got so fascinated with the programme, unfortunately, you have heard that after 25 years running on TV, The Oprah Winfrey Show is coming to an end. Write an email to oprah@oprah.com saying you love the programme a lot and that you would like to attend the show as part of the audience before the season is over.

Remember to use the instructions given in unit 2 session 2 related to writing Informal Emails.



Appendix.- Licenses of resources.

Licenses of resources used in Communicative Activities.

Resource (1)	Resource information (1)	Resource (2)	Re
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