

Twitter

Level

Upper-intermediate

Tasks

- Discussing whether students have experience of Twitter or not
- Guessing the correct option to complete some statistics about social networking
- Reading an article about Twitter and Facebook
- Deciding if a group of words are nouns, verbs or both
- Discussing the benefits and drawbacks of social networking on business

How to use the lesson

- 1 Hand out the worksheet and ask students to tick the response to the question 'have you heard of Twitter?' which is closest to their own. Elicit feedback on student reactions. Encourage students who know about Twitter to describe this service.
- 2 Students guess which option is best to complete the statistics. They can then scan paragraphs one and two of the article to check their answers.

Answers

(a) – 70% (b) – 175 million (3) – 2006 (4) – 1,000%

- 3 Students read the article about Twitter and Facebook. Ask them to describe the tone of the writer. Possible answers: ironic / sceptical / humorous. See what reactions students have to the article. You may wish to look at useful vocabulary, such as: *e.g. early-adopters / brand recognition / hierarchies / distracted.*
- 4 Ask students to decide if the words are nouns, verbs or both.

Answers

Nouns: follower / user / hierarchy / conversation / engagement / data

Verbs: maintain / distract

Both: network / rocket / service / message / experiment / approach / hype / level / claim / blog

- 5 Allow students to discuss the questions in small groups. Ask groups to report back on their ideas to the class. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter>

<http://twitter.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddO9idmax0o>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/feb/18/facebook-u-turn-on-privacy-changes>