

# Surveillance society

## Level

Upper intermediate and above

## Tasks

Using expressions connected with the concept of 'surveillance society'

Scanning and reading an article on the subject of 'surveillance society'

Identifying words and expressions in the article from their definitions

Discussing points arising from the article

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the phrase 'surveillance' on the board and see if students can tell you what it means. If the students cannot guess, give clues such as: CCTV camera / Big Brother. Hand out the worksheet and ask students to work in pairs to discuss the terms. If there are terms that the students cannot describe or define, you may decide to tell them that you will check these with the class after they have read the article.
- 2 Ask students to look for and underline the terms in exercise 1 by scanning the article. If necessary, allow students to read the article and guess any unknown terms in exercise 1 from context.

### Answers

*Title: The glass consumer*  
*Paragraph 1: surveillance society, loyalty cards scheme, spending habits*  
*Paragraph 2: satellite tracking, privacy issues*  
*Paragraph 3: tagging (device)*  
*Paragraph 4: breach of data security, surveillance society*

- 3 Students read the whole article. Ask them to explain / summarise the key points in each paragraph.
- 4 Students identify words and expressions in the article from the definitions given.

### Answers

*(a) personal data*                      *(b) to customise*                      *(c) premiums*  
*(d) monitored*                          *(e) undercover*                          *(f) exposed*

- 5 Ask students to work in small groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask the group to report their ideas to the class, then hold a feedback session. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

## Related websites

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

<http://www.ncc.org.uk/dataprotection/index.htm>  
[http://www.ncc.org.uk/technology/glass\\_consumer.htm](http://www.ncc.org.uk/technology/glass_consumer.htm)  
<http://www.aclu.org/pizza/>