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iPad Debate

The ultimate gadget... or not.

1 Pre-reading.

Match the words to the pictures (a-f).



a



b



c



d



e



f

Computer

Speakers

Laptop

eReader

Keyboard

iPad

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Who do you agree with: Loise or Morgan?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. What does "it" refer to? Write either "iPad" or "laptop".

	iPad	Laptop
1. It's got about 10 hours of battery life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. It's cheaper than an iPad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. It's got an application called iBooks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The keyboard is quite small.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. It's got great speakers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. It can do everything an iPad can do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Discussion

Discuss with a partner.

1. Have you got an iPad? What do you think of it?
2. What are the pros and cons of an iPad?
3. Do you think you'll get an iPad? Why? Why not?

iPad Debate

The ultimate gadget... or not.



1 Loise: In favour of iPads

I really like my iPad. It's great fun to use. You can move things or turn pages just by touching the screen. Also, it's got about 10 hours of battery life. I can put all my music on my iPad and the speakers are excellent. I can also watch films or TV programmes on it, and the picture quality is fantastic. I've got an application called iBooks. This is a type of eReader and you can keep lots of books on it. I also use my iPad to go online and visit my favourite websites. I can check my e-mail, too, and play video games on it. It's great!

2 Morgan: Against iPads

My mum's got an iPad but I don't use it very much. Basically, I prefer my laptop. It can do everything an iPad can do... and it's much cheaper. OK, iPads look nice, and the touchscreen is fun to use, but the keyboard is quite small and you can't type very quickly on it.

The real problem for me is that there's nothing an iPad can do that my laptop can't do. For example, with my laptop I can watch films, listen to music, read books and go online. Can an iPad do anything else? No, I don't think so. In my opinion, if you've already got a laptop or computer, you don't need to buy an iPad!



Twitter

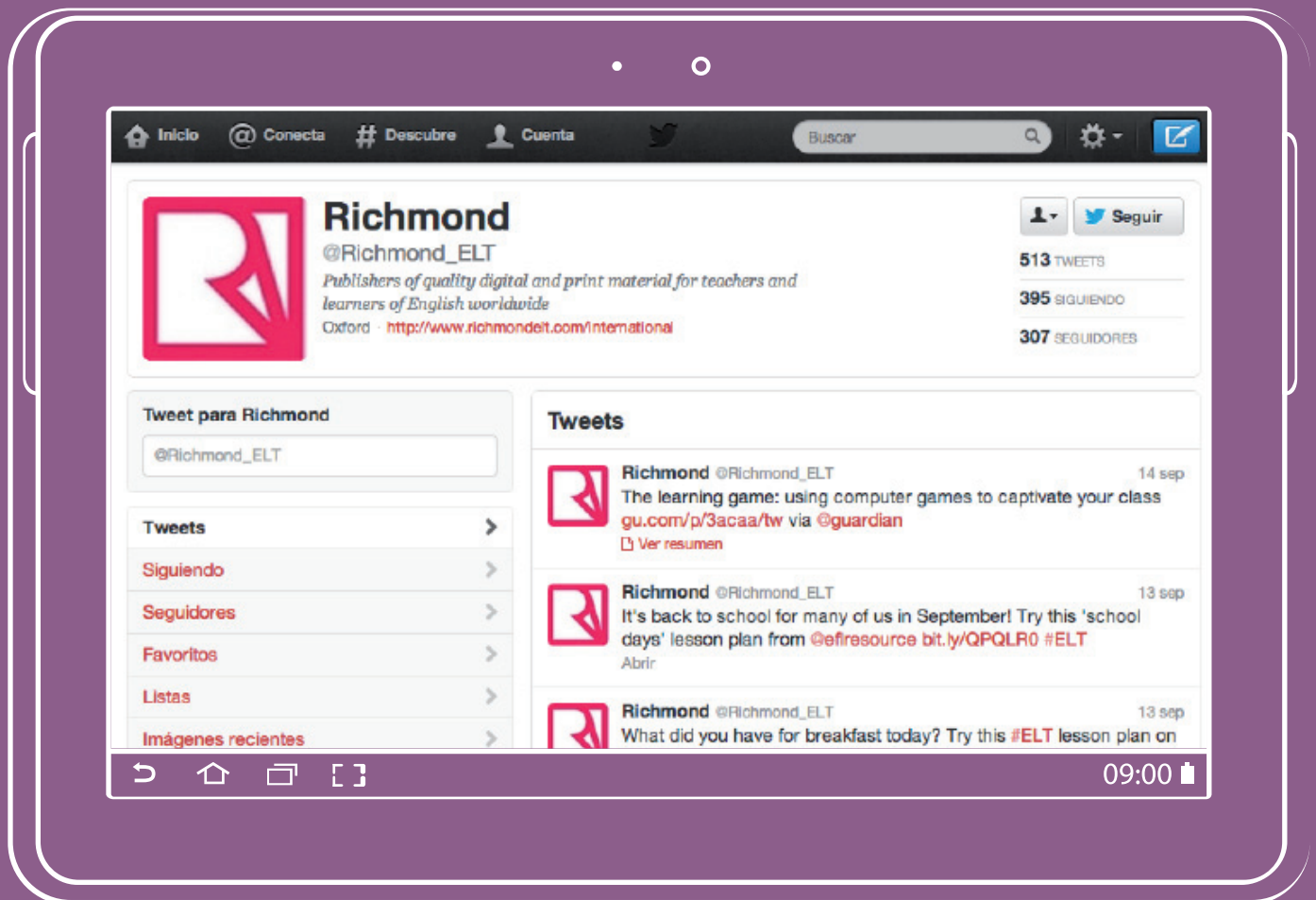
The social networking site creates a big buzz.

1 Pre-reading.

Match the types of talk to the definitions (a-h).

Chat	Discuss something	
Argue	Gossip	Shout
Whisper	Twitter	Complain

- a. To talk angrily with someone.
- b. To talk excitedly and very quickly about things (often unimportant things). Birds do this when they're making high-pitched sounds.
- c. To talk informally.
- d. To talk about the private lives of other people.
- e. To speak in a very low voice so others can't hear you.
- f. To tell a shopkeeper, waiter/waitress, etc. that you aren't happy with the service.
- g. To talk about a topic with someone.
- h. To speak in a loud voice.



Twitter

The social networking site creates a big buzz.

2 Reading I

What do you know about the social networking site Twitter? Discuss with a partner. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then answer the questions.

1. How many tweets are sent every day?
A. . million.
2. How many tweets are sent per second?
B.
3. When was the first tweet sent?
C. / /
4. How many Twitter followers does Britney Spears have?
D. About million.
5. What's the maximum number of characters that a tweet can have?
E.

4 Discussion

Discuss with a partner.

1. Do you have a Twitter account? What do you tweet about?
2. What are the pros and cons of Twitter?
3. What other social networking sites do you use? What do you like/dislike about them?



Twitter

The social networking site creates a big buzz.



Twitter is a social networking site. You can use it to communicate with friends, relatives and the world in general. With Twitter, you can send messages, pass on news, share ideas, meet people, get opinions and ask for help.

Twitter is very popular. More than 65 million “tweets” (messages sent through Twitter) are sent every day. However, the big difference with Twitter is that each “tweet” can only have 140 characters. This means the message has to be very short as a character is any letter, space, number or punctuation mark. Here are two famous Twitter messages.

1. The first ever Twitter message was sent on 21st March 2006 by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey:

MESSAGE: just setting up my twitter



2. When ice was discovered on Mars, the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory vessel sent out messages, giving details about what had been found:

MESSAGE: Are you ready to celebrate? Well, get ready: We have ICE!!!! Yes, ICE; *WATER ICE* on Mars! WOOT!! Best day ever!!

Many famous people use Twitter to talk to their fans. Some of the top ten users of twitter include: Lady Gaga (with about 14 million followers), Justin Bieber (with about 13 million), Barack Obama (with about 10 million), Britney Spears (with about 10 million), Shakira (with about 9 million) and Ashton Kutcher (with about 8 million).

Twitter is really easy to use. Simply go to www.twitter.com and register your name. Then, upload a picture to use as your avatar. When you're ready, type a message in the "What are you doing?" bar and press "update". Congratulations! You've just created your first twitter message. But remember, your message can only have a maximum of 140 characters.

Have fun using Twitter!

Videogames Debate

Are videogames a positive or negative influence on society?

1 Pre-reading

What are the pros and cons of videogames? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the pre-reading activity.



3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, add letters to the words to complete the sentences.

1. People should be reading or **sociali** _ _ _ _ rather than playing videogames.
2. Many videogames involve shooting and **kil** _ _ _ _.
3. A team of **scien** _ _ _ _ from the University of Rochester tested several 18- to 25-year-olds.
4. Videogames can **h** _ _ _ with hand-eye coordination.
5. Surgeons who played Nintendo Wii before going into an **opera** _ _ _ _ theatre did better than those who didn't.

4 Discussion

Discuss with a partner.

1. What's your favorite videogame?
2. What was the last videogame you played?
3. What will videogames be like in the future?

Videogames Debate

Are videogames a positive or negative influence on society?



What do you think of videogames?
We asked two people for their opinions.

Morgan Brayston: Against videogames

I'm against videogames. While people are playing a videogame, they're wasting time – time that could be spent doing exercise, socialising with friends, reading a book or learning something. Also, people who spend a lot of time sitting down playing games don't get any exercise and may become overweight. Worst of all, many videogames are violent, with bombs, shooting and killing.

Of course, not all video games are bad, but most of them are not good.

I think people should be outside playing, using their imagination, reading, socialising and learning – not playing games that involve shooting and killing.



Amelia Stanhurst: In favour of videogames

I think videogames are great. For a start, you can play online games and meet lots of people from around the world. Also, they're fun for parties. I often play Wii Party with my friends when they come round. Videogames can versity of Rochester tested several 18- to 25-year-olds.

They divided them into two groups. The first group played action games such as *Call of Duty 2*. The second group played *The Sims 2*, a strategy-based game. After 50 hours of playing, both groups were given some tests. Those who played *Call of Duty 2* were quicker than the other group. Videogames can also help with hand-eye coordination. In another study, surgeons who played Nintendo Wii before going into an operating theatre did better than those who didn't. Let's stop being so negative about videogames!