

REAL LIFE ISSUE

The Internet Never Forgets

1 Look at the title of the lesson. What do you think you are going to read about?

2 Read the text. What do Amy, David and Jamie have in common?

We all know it's important to stay safe online - but here's another problem: what do you do if the internet is giving you a bad name? Here are three stories. Let us know what you think!

- Amy is 16. Three years ago she was in a supermarket with some friends. They took some sweets without paying for them, but a store detective saw them. The detective called the police, who arrested them for shoplifting. A lot of people discussed the story on social media sites. Last month Amy applied for a part time job in a supermarket (not the same one!). They looked her up online, and she didn't get the job.
- David, who is now 17, used to be a quiet, shy child who didn't make friends very easily. When he went to secondary school, some of the other pupils started bullying him. In particular, they posted nasty comments about him online. The bullying has stopped now. David is much happier, and he has some good friends. However, the unpleasant comments are still online.
- 17-year-old Jamie is passionate about 'green issues'. Last year he joined a group of protesters who were trying to protect some ancient woodland from builders. He climbed a tree and refused to come down. When the police arrested him, a lot of people took photos and uploaded them to social media sites, with Jamie's name on them.

3 Who is speaking? Write Amy, David or Jamie.

- 1 I don't think my past should follow me around forever. I've changed since then and so have the people who wrote those things. Things like that shouldn't stay on the internet. _
- 2 I still believe in the same things and I'm not sorry I did it. However, I don't want everybody to know about it. People might think I'm a criminal. I might not get into university. _____
- 3 OK I did something stupid, but it was ages ago, and I've never done anything like it again. Everyone does stupid things when they're young. _____



4 Write the correct name or names.

Who....

- 1 regrets past actions? _____
- 2 broke the law? _____
- 3 used to be lonely? _____
- 4 didn't do anything wrong? _____
- 5 cares about the environment? _____

Discuss

5 Read these comments. Which ones do you agree with? Tell your partner, and say why.

>Stealing is wrong. People should know what Amy did. eddie15

>>**No**, that's not fair. She deserves a second chance. sherlockrox

>>> I agree, the websites should remove all the posts which name her. jt_14

>Nobody cares what some idiots said about David years ago. He shouldn't worry about it. topjo

>>**I don't** agree. I don't think those horrible comments should be on the internet. sammy123

>>>**You're** right, the website should delete them. madmax

>You should never break the law, even if you believe in something very strongly. Jamie did something wrong and he'll have to live with it. coolted

>>**Sorry**, but I completely disagree. I think the websites should delete the photos and his name. threenil

>>>**I agree** with coolted. It's his own fault. smalltownboy

6 Work in groups of three (A, B and C). You need one sheet of paper each.

- 1 Student A writes a comment about Amy, student B writes a comment about David, and Student C writes a comment about Jamie.
- 2 Now pass the papers round, read the comments and add your own. Use some of the expressions in bold in Exercise 5.
- 3 Finally, read out the comments on your sheet of paper to the class.

7a Work in pairs. Discuss the statement and add more ideas to each list.

Social media sites are a bad idea.	
YES, because....	NO, because....
people write horrible things.	you can keep in touch with your friends.
...	
...	

b Now discuss the statement in small groups. Use some expressions from the lesson.