

Learning English with CBC Radio – Living in Alberta



Social Media: Cyberbullying

by

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Integration Enhancement

Topic:	Social Media
Lesson:	Cyberbullying
CLB Level:	6
CLB Skills:	Reading, Writing
Essential Skill(s):	Reading, Writing, Digital Technology/ Computer Use

CLB Outcomes	
Reading:	<p>Learners will demonstrate the ability to use online reference sources.</p> <p>Learners will demonstrate the ability to guess the meaning of unknown terms, phrases or idioms from the context without a dictionary.</p> <p>Learners will demonstrate the ability to identify specific factual details and some implied meanings.</p>
Writing:	<p>Learners will demonstrate the ability to reduce a page of information to a summary.</p> <p>Learners will demonstrate the ability to write a paragraph.</p>
Language Skills	
Grammar Focus:	Learners will demonstrate the ability to identify and use various word forms.
Vocabulary:	<i>empathy, harassment, sexting, anonymous, tagging, instant messaging, attractive, expose, excitement, virtual, widespread, survey, countless, consequences,</i>
<p>Culture</p> <p>The Internet is very popular amongst children and teenagers. Unfortunately bullying occurs frequently on the websites they use. In some cases cyberbullying has led to suicide. Parents, schools, and various community and government organizations are working hard to protect children from cyberbullying and to prevent it.</p>	

Websites:

www.learnersdictionary.com

www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx

www.dictionary.com

<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/InternetSafety/internetsavvy.html#module1-0>

Introduction

Before you read, complete the first two columns of the KWL chart below:

K	W	L
What I know about cyberbullying.	What I want to know about cyberbullying.	What I learned about cyberbullying.

Pre-reading

Taken and adapted from http://www.bullyfreealberta.ca/cyber_bullying.htm

The Internet has created a new world for people to meet, connect and exchange information. Unfortunately, it has also created another opportunity for bullying. People can use the Internet to send embarrassing, hurtful and threatening messages. These actions can cause serious harm to the kids and adults being victimized. This is known as cyberbullying (electronic bullying, online bullying, or cyber harassment).

Food for thought

1. Are you a member of a social networking website such as Facebook or Myspace?
2. Do you know anyone who has been bullied online?
3. Why is it that some people bully others online?
4. What do you think are some of the effects on cyberbullying on teens?
5. What role do you think governments should play in preventing cyberbullying?

Main Reading

Title: Cyberbullying

Glossary¹

1. Relentless means continuing over a long period of time without becoming weaker or less
2. Bullying means to frighten, hurt, or threaten someone over and over again
3. Overweight means weighing more than the normal or expected amount: too heavy
4. Circulate means to go or spread from one person or place to another
5. Remorse means a feeling of being sorry for doing something bad or wrong in the past: a feeling of guilt

As you read the selection, use *context clues* to help you figure out the meaning of the following words that you will come across: *empathy, harassment, sexting, anonymous, tagging*

Reading Strategy - Understanding reference words

Reference words include words like *he, she, his, her, this, that, these, those, it, its, and which*. These words are used to show that a sentence is related to something that has been mentioned elsewhere in the text. Understanding how sentences are related will help you understand the text better. As you read the text, pay attention to the reference words you come across. Can you identify what the words refer to elsewhere in the text?

The reading selection has been adapted from Chapter 5 in Module 3 of the document “Internet Savvy Training” by Alberta Human Services, Government of Alberta. The document can be found at <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/InternetSafety/internetsavvy.html#module1-0>

¹ Definitions taken from www.learnersdictionary.com

Cyberbullying

What it is

Cyberbullying differs from traditional, face-to-face bullying in that it can be relentless and public – and at the same time anonymous. It can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly because of the widespread use of mobile devices like cell phones among teens. Victims of cyberbullying may or may not know the person who is bullying them. There could be countless other people seeing and/or participating in it, with or without the victim knowing.

- Young people are cyberbullied through instant messaging, email, websites for games and social networking sites.
- Built-in cameras in cell phones are adding to the problem. In one case, students used a camera enabled cell phone to take a photo of an overweight classmate in the shower after gym, and the photo was distributed throughout the school email list within minutes.
- Sexting may expose teenagers to unkind behaviour or cyberbullying. Personal messages and photographs, even those sent to real friends or boyfriends/girlfriends, can end up being made public and even circulated repeatedly.
- Multi-player online games and virtual worlds, including virtual worlds and gambling can be venues for harassment and cyberbullying when kids are playing or using the chat options to talk to other players.
- The simple act of tagging images (naming the people in the photo) on social networking sites can lead to cyberbullying as any comment can be left in the heat of the moment and sometimes completely anonymously. Negative comments can invite others to join in for fear of being on the 'wrong side' of bullying – much like in the physical playground.

The statistics

A 2008 University of Toronto study found that half the students surveyed said they had been cyberbullied. 1 in 4 youth participate in cyberbullying are teenagers who have also bullied others offline, but the remaining three-quarters do not bully others in person. Cyberbullying can seem attractive to youth because it allows them to say things online or in a text that they wouldn't normally say face-to-face, because they feel so removed from the person on the receiving end. Also, youth who cyberbully may not see the consequences of their actions on others and therefore may not feel any empathy or remorse. Cyberbullying can begin as an accident or simply out of boredom and the desire to create some excitement. So never assume that your child could not be involved in cyberbullying or be hurt by it.

Reading Comprehension

Read each of the following statements and decide whether or not they are true or false.

- | | True / False |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| a. Someone who is being cyberbullied may not even know who is responsible for the bullying. | _____ |
| b. Cyberbully teens don't bully other teens face to face. | _____ |
| c. Young people who cyberbully always know the effects of their actions on others. | _____ |
| d. Cyberbullying can happen through email. | _____ |
| e. Cyberbullying can also happen to teens playing online games with more than one player. | _____ |
| f. Statistics from the University of Toronto study show that only a very small number of students have been cyberbullied. | _____ |
| g. The University of Toronto study showed that less than half of the students surveyed do not bully others in person. | _____ |
| h. Naming people in a photo on a social networking website can lead to cyber bullying through negative comments that people can make. | _____ |
| i. Sending sexually explicit text messages in order to embarrass someone is an example of cyberbullying | _____ |

Vocabulary Development

A. Context Clues

Use context clues from the reading to guess the meaning of the following words:
empathy, harassment, sexting, anonymous, tagging

B. Definition Matching

The words in italics on the next page are taken from the reading. These words are also found on the *list of the first 2000 most commonly used words of English* and on the *Academic Word List*. Match the words to the correct definition and find the part of speech. The first one has been done for you as an example.

instant messaging, attractive, expose, excitement, virtual, widespread, survey, countless, consequences,

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	Widespread	Adjective	common over a wide area or among many people
2.			to cause (someone) to experience something or to be influenced or affected by something
3.			a system for sending messages quickly over the Internet from one computer to another computer
4.			something that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions
5.			existing or occurring on computers or on the Internet
6.			having a feature or quality that people like
7.			to ask (many people) a question or a series of questions in order to gather information about what most people do or think about something
8.			to think that something is true or probably true without knowing that it is true
9.			a feeling of eager enthusiasm and interest: the state of being excited
10.			too many to be counted : very many

C. Collocations

Words that are used in a certain way together are called collocations. A collocation is a particular combination of words. Take the word “fire”. Collocations of the word “fire” are *truck* and *fighter* – “fire truck” and “fire fighter” for example. Use online reference sites such as www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx or <http://www.thesaurus.com> or www.dictionary.com to find the collocations of “virtual” and “mobile”. Complete the table below. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Virtual	Mobile
Virtual classroom	Mobile app

Reading Strategy

Instructions

The sentences below are taken from the main reading. A reference word is highlighted in each sentence. Read each sentence carefully and state what the reference word refers to. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Cyberbullying differs from traditional, face-to-face bullying in that **it** can be relentless and public – and at the same time anonymous.
Answer: It refers to cyberbullying.
2. **It** can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly because of the widespread use of mobile devices like cell phones among teens.
Answer:
3. Victims of cyberbullying may or may not know the person who is bullying them. There could be countless other people seeing and/or participating in **it**, with or without the victim knowing.
Answer:
4. Cyberbullying can seem attractive to youth because **it** allows **them** to say things online or in a text that **they** wouldn't normally say face-to-face, because they feel so removed from the person on the receiving end.
Answer:
5. Also, youth who cyberbully may not see the consequences of **their** actions on others and therefore may not feel any empathy or remorse.
Answer:
6. So never assume that your child could not be involved in cyberbullying or be hurt by **it**.
Answer:

Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

Word forms

Word forms are the different parts of speech that can be formed from a word. Being able to identify and use the correct part of speech of a word in sentence is very important for clear communication.

Example

Noun	Attractiveness
Verb	Attract
Adjective	Attractive
Adverb	Attractively

Activity 1 – Identifying word forms

The paragraph below is taken from the main reading. Complete the table that follows by identifying the word forms of the underlined words and saying why that word form is used. The first one is done for you as an example.

Cyberbullying differs from traditional¹, face-to-face bullying in that it can be relentless² and public³ – and at the same time anonymous⁴. It can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly because of the widespread use of mobile devices like cell phones among teens. Victims of cyberbullying may or may not know the person who is bullying them. There could be countless⁵ other people seeing and/or participating in it, with or without⁶ the victim knowing.

Cyberbullying can seem attractive⁷ to youth because it allows them to say things online or in a text that they wouldn't normally⁸ say face-to-face, because they feel so removed⁹ from the person on the receiving end. Also, youth who cyberbully may not see the consequences of their actions on others and therefore¹⁰ may not feel any empathy or remorse. Cyberbullying can begin as an accident or simply¹¹ out of boredom and the desire to create some excitement¹². So never assume that your child could not be involved in cyberbullying or be hurt by it.

	Word	Part of speech	Purpose
1	Traditional	Adjective	Traditional is used to describe bullying
2	Relentless		
3	Public		
4	Anonymous		
5	Countless		
6	Without		
7	Attractive		
8	Normally		
9	Removed		
10	Therefore		
11	Simply		
12	Excitement		

Activity 2 – Sentence writing

Select 5 words from the table in activity 1 and write a sentence for each in your own words. The context of the sentences must be on cyberbullying.

Link to Essential Skills

Essential skills are the skills needed for work, learning, and life (www.hrsdc.gc.ca). They are enabling skills that help you perform daily tasks as well as tasks required on the job. In this section of the lesson you will focus on **computer use and writing** to communicate your concerns on cyberbullying of children to an authority.

Instructions: Imagine that you are a parent / guardian of an eleven year old child, Luke Sandazi. You discover that Luke is being bullied online by a group of other children in the school your child attends. You are very worried about this cyberbullying as it is affecting your eleven year old. Write a note to your child's teacher, Mr Deendes, describing the problem and your concerns. In your note request a meeting with the teacher to discuss the problem and find out what the school can do. Use the following websites to give you more information on bullying and resources from the Government of Alberta: <http://www.bullyfreealberta.ca/bullying.htm> and http://www.education.alberta.ca/media/6570237/cs_adult_fs.pdf

Answer Keys

Reading Comprehension

		True / False
a.	Someone who is being cyberbullied may not even know who is responsible for the bullying.	True
b.	Cyberbully teens don't bully other teens face to face.	False
c.	Young people who cyberbully always know the effects of their actions on others.	False
d.	Cyberbullying can happen through email.	True
e.	Cyberbullying can also happen to teens playing online games with more than one player.	True
f.	Statistics from the University of Toronto study show that only a verysmall number of students have been cyberbullied.	False
g.	The University of Toronto study showed that less than half of the students surveyed do not bully others in person.	False
h.	Naming people in a photo on a social networking website can lead to cyber bullying through negative comments that people can make.	True
i.	Sending sexually explicit text messages in order to embarrass someone is an example of cyberbullying	True

Vocabulary Development

A. Context Clues

Empathy is the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions

Harassment is to annoy or bother (someone) in a constant or repeated way

Sexting means sending sexually explicit text messages, photos, or emails using a cell phone or mobile device

Anonymous means not named or identified

Tagging means to name someone in a picture on the internet

B. Definition Matching

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	Widespread	Adjective	common over a wide area or among many people
2.	Expose	Verb	to cause (someone) to experience something or to be influenced or affected by something
3.	Instant messaging	Noun	a system for sending messages quickly over the Internet from one computer to another computer
4.	Consequences	Noun	something that happens as a result of a particular action

			or set of conditions
5.	Virtual	Adjective	existing or occurring on computers or on the Internet
6.	Attractive	Adjective	having a feature or quality that people like
7.	Survey	Verb	to ask (many people) a question or a series of questions in order to gather information about what most people do or think about something
8.	Assume	Verb	to think that something is true or probably true without knowing that it is true
9.	Excitement	Noun	a feeling of eager enthusiasm and interest: the state of being excited
10.	Countless	Adjective	too many to be counted: very many

C. Collocations * Answers will vary**

Virtual	Mobile
Virtual classroom	Mobile app
Virtual company	Mobile device
Virtual platform	Mobile home
Virtual environment	Mobile phone
Virtual host	Upwardly mobile

Reading Strategy

2. Answer: It refers to cyberbullying

3. Answer: It refers to cyberbullying

4. Answer: It refers to cyberbullying. Them refers to youth. They refers to youth.

5. Answer: Their refers to youth.

6. Answer: It refers to cyberbullying.

Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

Activity 1

	Word	Part of speech	Purpose
1	Traditional	Adjective	Traditional is used to describe bullying
2	Relentless	Adjective	Relentless is used to describe cyberbullying
3	Public	Adjective	Public is used to describe cyberbullying

4	Anonymous	Adjective	Anonymous is used to describe cyberbullying
5	Countless	Adjective	Countless is used to describe people
6	Without	Adverb	Without is used to describe the victim knowing
7	Attractive	Adjective	Attractive is used to describe cyberbullying
8	Normally	Adjective	Normally is used to describe youth who cyberbully
9	Removed	Adjective	Removed is used to describe youth who cyberbully
10	Therefore	Adverb	Therefore is used to give the reason why youth may cyberbully
11	Simply	Adverb	Simply is used to describe how cyberbullying begins
12	Excitement	Noun	Excitement is used to state what people may gain from cyberbullying

Activity 2 – Sentence writing

sentences will vary

Reading –Writing Link

*Paragraphs will vary**

Link to Essential Skills

May 20, 2013

Dear Mr Deendes,

I am very worried about my son Luke. He is being bullied online by a group of children in the school. The bullies are calling him names and making fun of him. Now Luke does not want to come to school anymore. Nobody wants to play with him on the playground. He is really feeling low. What can the school do to help stop this bullying and prevent more children from being hurt? I would like to come in and discuss this issue further with you. Please let me know the best time to come.

Sincerely,

Jane Sandazi