

# 9 Language Skills worksheet

## Reading

- 1 Read the text about the changes in the book industry. How can new writers stay in touch with their readers?

### New ways to read

Books, and the world of publishing, have changed an enormous amount over the last decade. We used to go into bookshops and pick up books to choose what we wanted to buy. Of course, many of us still do that, but today there are more ways to choose what we want to read. We can go online – to bookshops on the internet – and choose what to read. We can order books to be delivered to our house, or we can download them to our computer or e-reader, and keep them in our online library. These are some of the recent changes in the book market, but what changes have writers experienced because of developments in technology?

One of these developments is blogging. It is now very common for experienced writers, ordinary individuals, and people who would like to become authors, to write material for the internet. For authors who are already famous, they might be writing about their recent work, or a book that they are writing at the moment. They might also use it to keep in touch with their fans. Other people use blogging to tell their friends about what they are

doing, using it as a kind of online diary.

Professional writers use blogging to develop their writing skills, to build up a group of followers, and to generate publicity about future work. Writers who want to promote themselves can use a blog to present their work to readers and develop their writing style, so that when their book is published, they will have lots of readers who want to buy it.

The other useful feature of a blog is that many of them are interactive, so readers can leave comments about the material. This is a useful way for writers to find out what their readers think of them.

People can write about relevant topics much more quickly, commenting on news and current affairs as they happen, rather than waiting for a book or article to be published. The speed with which these short articles can be sent around the world means that there is now even more choice for people deciding what to read!



- 2 Answer the questions.

- 1 Describe the different ways we can buy books today.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What can experienced writers use a blog for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What feature of a blog is useful, and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct information.

- 1 Books and the world of publishing have \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Today, there are more \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Many people use blogging to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Professional writers use blogging to \_\_\_\_\_, build a group of followers, and generate publicity about future work.
- 5 Writers who want to promote themselves can \_\_\_\_\_ and develop their writing style.
- 6 People can write about relevant topics \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Articles can be sent around the world quickly, so there is \_\_\_\_\_.

# 9 Language Skills worksheet

## Writing

- 4 Write a short article about electronic books. Use the notes below to help you write a paragraph of 80 to 100 words.



- Do you prefer paper or electronic books?
- Explain your reasons.
- What have you read recently?
- What do you want to read soon?
- What do you think will happen to paper books?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Remember!


Use a range of tenses:

*Last week I read ...*

*At the moment I'm reading ...*

*When I was using my e-reader, the battery ran out.*

## Listening

- 5  09 Listen to a news report about podcasts and circle the correct answers.

- 1 Which is the best way to describe a podcast?
  - a) A recording of a radio programme.
  - b) Something funny you have recorded.
  - c) Something funny you can watch.
  - d) A recording you can listen to using different technologies.
- 2 How many downloads did Ricky Gervais have in 2005?
  - a) Over 45 million.
  - b) Over 4 million.
  - c) Over 4.5 million.
  - d) Over 450,000.
- 3 How was the name invented?
  - a) Because Apple helped design the technology.
  - b) From 'broadcast' and 'iPod'.
  - c) From a dictionary.
  - d) From 'MP3' and 'broadcast'.
- 4 How many adults in the UK have downloaded a podcast?
  - a) Over 8 million.
  - b) Over 80 million.
  - c) Over 18 million.
  - d) Over 800,000.
- 5 Why do newer broadcasters use podcasts?
  - a) To listen to radio stations.
  - b) To get lots of listeners.
  - c) To get a job on television.
  - d) Because they don't like radio stations.



# 9 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking pairwork Student A

- 1 Read the prompts in the first column and work out the questions. Write your answers in column A.
- 2 Guess Student B's answers and write them in column B.
- 3 Ask Student B the questions and write their answers in column C.
- 4 Put a tick in column D each time you guessed Student B's answer correctly.

	A My answer	B Student B's answer (guess)	C Student B's answer (real)	D Correct guess? ✓ or ✗
you ever / make podcast				
how often / use / Facebook				
you ever / read / an e-book				
you / have / a smartphone				
you ever / write / a blog				
how many / mobile phones / you have				
how often / use / YouTube				
you ever / send a tweet				
what / you / used to do / you not do now				
you going to / have your own website				
you ever / join / chatroom				

- 5 Compare your answers in columns B and C. How well do you know your partner?

# 9 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking pairwork Student B

- 1 Read the prompts in the first column and work out the questions. Write your answers in column A.
- 2 Guess Student A's answers and write them in column B.
- 3 Ask Student A the questions and write their answers in column C.
- 4 Put a tick in column D each time you guessed Student A's answer correctly.

	A My answer	B Student A's answer (guess)	C Student A's answer (real)	D Correct guess? ✓ or X
you ever / make podcast				
how often / use / Facebook				
you ever / read / an e-book				
you / have / a smartphone				
you ever / write / a blog				
how many / mobile phones / you have				
how often / use / YouTube				
you ever / send a tweet				
what / you / used to do / you not do now				
you going to / have your own website				
you ever / join / chatroom				

- 5 Compare your answers in columns B and C. How well do you know your partner?

# 9 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking: Teacher's notes

### Language

Tense review (mixed present and past tenses)  
Communication

### Instructions

- 1 Divide the class into pairs and decide who is Student A and B in each pair. Hand out one Student A worksheet and one Student B worksheet to each pair.
- 2 Ask students to work individually at first, and tell them to read the questions in the first column of the table and write their answers in column A. Encourage them to tell the truth!
- 3 Students then complete column B with the answers they think their partner would give.
- 4 In pairs, students take turns asking and answering each question. After listening to their partner's answers to each question, they complete column C with the information their partner has given.
- 5 Students put a tick or a cross in column D, depending on whether their guesses in column B were correct or not.
- 6 Students compare their answers and see how many they guessed correctly.

### Answers

*Students' own answers.*

### Optional activity

- Students use the information in the chart to write a short profile of their partner. However, they must include two pieces of incorrect information in the profile. They take it in turns to read the profiles to their partner who must listen carefully without looking at the chart and identify the incorrect information given by their partner.