

Your life in 2D

(LEVEL B2)

Part 1: WARM-UP

EX.1. Look at the picture below. Do you use Instagram? Why/Why not? Why is social media so popular among young people? Compare your ideas with your partner.



Source: creativecommons.org

Part 2: WATCHING

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1lwQ6XU5yw>

EX.2.a. Watch the video, answer the following questions and discuss them with your partner:

1. What happens in this short video? Summarize briefly.
2. What is the main message behind it?
3. Do you agree with it?

EX.2.b. Take a look at some of the colloquial expressions used in the video. Can you guess what they mean? Think of some phrases that could replace them without changing the meaning. Brainstorm ideas with your partner.

„hey pal!” „what the hell!” „you're way too close” „copy you” „hold the work”
„I think we're almost there” „at the end of the day it's their fault not mine” „take a shot”

Part 3: READING

EX.3. Read the article below and decide if the statements are true or false:

1. Her decision to quit social media was received negatively. T/F
2. She decided to edit the captions of her photos to get more attention from her followers. T/F
3. She was hugely concerned that her selfie didn't receive enough likes. T/F
4. Her new website will show unedited content. T/F
5. On her new website she encourages readers to switch to veganism. T/F

Essena O'Neill quits Instagram claiming social media 'is not real life'

(...)

An Australian teenager with more than half a million followers on Instagram has quit the platform, describing it as “**contrived** perfection made to get attention”, and called for others to quit social media – perhaps with help from her new website.

Essena O'Neill, 18, said she was able **to make an income** from marketing products to her 612,000 followers on Instagram – “\$2000AUD a post EASY”. But her dramatic rejection of social media celebrity has won her praise.

On 27 October she deleted more than 2,000 pictures “that served no real purpose other than self-promotion”, and dramatically edited the captions to the remaining 96 posts **in a bid** to reveal the manipulation, **mundanity**, and even insecurity behind them. O'Neill did not respond to requests for an interview.

A photo of her wearing a bikini, once captioned “Things are getting pretty wild at my house. Maths B and English in the sun,” has been edited: “see how relatable my captions were – stomach **sucked in**, strategic pose, pushed up boobs. I just want younger girls to know this isn't **candid** life, or cool or inspirational. It's contrived perfection made to get attention.”

“Why would you tell your followers that you're paid a lot to promote what you promote? Why would you tell your followers that you literally just do shoots every day to take pictures for Instagram?” she said in a 22-minute vlog posted to YouTube, titled “HOW PEOPLE MAKE 1000's ON SOCIAL MEDIA”. “Like, it's not cool. No one thinks that's radical, or revolutionary.

“Yet I, myself, was consumed by it. This was the reason why I quit social media: for me, personally, it consumed me. I wasn’t living in a 3D world.”

“I remember I obsessively checked the like count for a full week since uploading it,” she wrote of her first-ever post, a selfie that now has close to 2,500 likes. “It got 5 likes. This was when I was so hungry for social media **validation**. Now [it] marks the day I quit all social media and focus on real life projects.”

(...)

This includes letsbegoamechangers.com, O’Neill’s new site “aimed to inspire constant QUESTIONING”, where there’s “no likes or views or followers ... just my content as raw as I want”. In her first post, dated 31 October, she challenged her followers to go a week without social media, and recommended Eckhart Tolle’s book The Power of Now.

The site will cover “veganism, creative imagery with purpose, poems, writing, interviews with people that inspire me, and of course the finical reality behind **deluding** people off Instagram” [sic]. She will continue to post videos about vegan eating to YouTube, but Vimeo (“made to help not to get views or \$\$\$”) will “host all the new quality content”.

Author: Elle Hunt

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/nov/03/instagram-star-essena-oneill-quits-2d-life-to-reveal-true-story-behind-images>

Part 4: VOCABULARY

EX.4.a Go back to the text and try to guess the meaning of the highlighted phrases from the context. Compare your ideas with your partner.

Now match the phrases with their definitions/synonyms.

A. contrived	a. honest and telling the truth
B. to make an income	b. to make someone believe sth that is not true
C. in a bid to	c. approval
D. mundanity	d. the quality of being ordinary, common
E. to suck in	e. to draw in
F. candid	f. artificial and difficult to believe

G. validation	g. to earn money
H. to delude	h. in an attempt to

Definitions: cambridgedictionary.org

EX.4.b. Now use the expressions in an appropriate form to fill in the sentences below.

1. When we were left alone I gave him my opinion.
2. I guess I need to break up with him – he needs constant from his mother and he can't think for himself.
3. I hope it didn't sound like a compliment.
4. your cheeks to apply blusher to your cheek bones.
5. When she got promoted she was able toof \$100,000 a year.
6. He got lost find his way out of the woods.
7. You won't pass this exam if you don't study properly. Stop yourself!
8. I can't believe the of this lecture. He should've prepared something more original.

Part 5: VOCABULARY PRACTICE

EX.5. Discuss the following questions with your partner using the words that you were given by your teacher. Remember you MUST use all of them as you answer the questions.

Imagine quitting social media for one week. Do you think you could do it? How would you feel about it? Which social media account would you miss the most/the least?

