



English Fluency Now Podcast

www.englishfluencynow.com

English Fluency Now Episode #1 - "Facebook"

TRANSCRIPT

Hi and welcome to English Fluency Now Podcast Episode # 1!

My name is Lisa Biskup and I want to welcome you to the very first episode of the English Fluency Now podcast.

I have created the English Fluency Now podcast and website to help English learners become fluent in the English language.

I will be recording regular podcast episodes that cover a variety of topics that will be of interest to a myriad (that's another word for variety) of people throughout the world who are learning English.

On my website, www.englishfluencynow.com I offer a free email course entitled **7 Strategies for English Fluency**. If you have not yet signed up to receive this free email course, I invite you to do so now.

Go to www.englishfluencynow.com and put your first name and email address into the appropriate boxes, and then click the Sign-Up button. You will receive an email to confirm that you actually want to receive emails from me, and once you click on the link to confirm (which means to say yes), you will start receiving one email per day for seven days. Each email will have a link to an audio file and a text file.

In the email course I present seven powerful learning strategies that I want you to use to help you improve your English and become as fluent as you want to be in the areas which are important to you, including reading, speaking, writing, and of course, comprehension (which means you can understand what you are hearing).

In addition to the free email course, I offer a variety of English learning products for intermediate and advanced learners of English. One of the main products will be the Podcast Lesson Guides, which will include the complete transcript (that is, the written text of all that is said during the podcast) and additional learning materials related to each podcast, including vocabulary lists with the words being used in sentences, additional information that will be



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relevant to the articles, a variety of comprehension questions, and various other activities that will help you begin putting your knowledge to work.

The podcasts are free, but I do charge a nominal (that is, a small fee) for the Podcast Lesson Guides, which come in PDF form. You can purchase and download the Lesson Guides at www.englishfluencynow.com.

One of the most important ways to improve your English is to spend A LOT of time working with a particular piece of material. The key here is REPETITION. Of course, it is hard to spend much time listening to anything over and over again if it is boring or of no interest to you. That's why I want to present you with articles and dialogues using real-life, authentic English, the type that I use every day when I am speaking with family and friends, shopping, using the internet and more, on a variety of high interest topics.

So let's begin!

In today's episode, I am going to be talking about one of the most popular **pastimes** of modern times: Facebook!

Facebook is a social media site that was **launched** in 2004. It was **founded** by Mark Zuckerberg with his college roommates and fellow students Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes. **Initially**, Facebook was available only to students at Harvard University. Eventually, Facebook **expanded**, opening membership up to college students in the Boston area, the Ivy League schools, and Stanford University. As Facebook grew, students at various other universities were able to become members, and then finally high school students, and anyone aged 13 and over were able to use this quickly growing **powerhouse** social media site. As of February 2012, Facebook has more than 845 million active users worldwide, according to Wikipedia.

When you go to the site, www.facebook.com, you must register with an email address and a password; you must also enter your birthdate, as you must be at least 13 years old. Once you have confirmed your registration, you are invited to create your profile.



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Creating a profile can be a lot of fun. You get to choose a profile picture and provide information about yourself: where you attended school, where you work, where you live, what your interests are, etc.

However, one of the most important things you need to do when you first set up your Facebook profile, is to decide how you want to use Facebook. Some people simply want to connect with close friends and family members, while others want to meet new and interesting people through Facebook.

Knowing how you want to use Facebook will **inform** how you set your account settings and privacy settings. If you are not sure, you can read through the information provided on Facebook. Things change, so it is a good idea to stay up to date with any setting changes that are made by Facebook.

If you are **concerned** about privacy, you can set your settings so that only friends can see your wall posts, pictures, and other profile information. If you are not, you can open your profile up to the world and allow any other Facebook member to read your wall posts, look at your pictures, and invite you to be their friend on Facebook. It's really up to you.

Once you have created your profile, you can now begin to invite people to be Facebook friends. You can do this by searching for people you know by name or by email address. Once you find them, you can send them a friend **request**. When they accept, their profile picture will show up under your friend list and you will be able to see their walls, read their posts, and share information with them. This is the fun part!

After you have created your profile and invited some friends, you might want to begin **posting** to your wall. People use their walls for all sorts of information. Some of the most common ways that people use their walls is to post information about what they are thinking or doing; they might even include a picture. Other people like to post links to interesting websites, news reports and articles, YouTube videos, photo streams on Flickr, and other Facebook pages.

One cool thing you can do on Facebook is create an event. For example, if you are having a party and you want to invite friends via Facebook, you can create an event page and invite your friends to join it. On this page, you can post information about the event such as time,



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location, and what it is all about. Individuals, non-profit organizations, schools, music bands, businesses and others post events all the time on Facebook.

Facebook also allows you to create PAGES. Pages are created by individuals and **organizations** to help get the word out about events, products, and information that may be of interest to others. When you visit a page, whether it is for a business, a non-profit organization, a band, a club or a fan page, you can LIKE it. When you like a page, you will begin to see the wall posts of that page in your news feed.

English Fluency Now has a Facebook page. You can go there and LIKE it, and then you will begin to see our wall postings in your news feed. You will also be able to post to our wall, leave comments, communicate with other listeners, like, and share our posts, etc.

Besides posting to your own wall and to other people's walls, **uploading** photos and writing notes, you can play games via Facebook. In fact, it seems that some people are only on Facebook to play games. Some of the most popular games on Facebook are FarmVille, Mafia Wars, NinjaWarz, Words with Friends, and Zynga Poker.

One of my newest favorites is DrawSomething. I play it on my iPhone via Facebook. It is a game like Pictionary. You are given three words, you choose one, and then you draw a picture so that your opponent will guess the word. It's very fun and addicting!

Some people have a love-hate relationship with Facebook. They love how fun and easy it is to connect with others, share interesting information and links, play fun games and generally have a good time finding out about what is going on "out there" in the world. And at the same time, they hate that they can get sucked into hours of **seemingly** useless activity, wasting **precious** time that would be better spent doing something else.

How is your relationship with Facebook?

I invite you to share with our listeners by posting on the English Fluency Now Facebook wall. Introduce yourself and tell us about how you use Facebook, and what you like and don't like about it.



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Well, that's all for episode #1 of our new English Fluency Now podcast. Thank you for listening to this first episode. I hope you have enjoyed it and that you will use it to improve your English.

If the podcast was a bit difficult for you, I invite you to go to our website and download the FREE Lesson Guide for Episode 1. In the Lesson Guide, you will get a full written transcript of this podcast, as well as a list of vocabulary words that are found in the article. I will also use these vocabulary words in other sentences so that you get an idea of how you can use them in your own speaking and writing.

You can also put these new vocabulary words and phrases into your Anki deck or on flashcards to study. Furthermore, you will get additional exercises to help deepen your understanding of the content and give you the ability to interact with it.

If you want to give us some feedback, we'd really appreciate it. Please go to our Facebook wall and tell us what you think. Until next time! Bye now!

==== END OF PODCAST====

VOCABULARY WORDS (v=verb, n=noun, adj=adjective, adv=adverb)

pastime (n): *something that serves to make time pass agreeably; a pleasant means of amusement, recreation, or sport*

One of Bobby's favorite pastimes is playing banjo with his friends. His brother Danny's favorite pastime is fishing, and his sister Annie's favorite pastime is knitting.

launch (v): *to begin something or to set something in motion*

When are we going to launch the new site? I think we should launch it by the end of the month.

initially (adv): *something that happens at the beginning, at first*

I had initially wanted to go swimming yesterday, but when I heard that it was going to rain, I decided to go to a movie instead.



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expand (v): *to grow, to get bigger*

As our company expanded, we had to rent larger office spaces.

powerhouse (n): *a forceful or powerful person or thing, having potential for success*

He is a real powerhouse when he is on his game. He is strong and nearly unstoppable.

inform (v): *to make known, to supply oneself with information or knowledge*

He informed himself of all the important facts of the case.

concerned (adj): *worried about something, interested or affected by something*

I am concerned that we will not have enough money to pay all of our household bills this month. What are we going to do?

request (v or n): *to ask for something (v), the act of asking for something (n)*

I am going to request that they refund us our money for this awful movie. (v)

I sent him a Facebook request three days ago, but he still hasn't accepted. (n)

post (v or n): *to place text on a website (v), what has been written (n)*

I wish she would stop posting so many FarmVille updates to my wall.

How do I block posts on my Facebook wall?

organization (n): *a group of people working together for a cause*

This is a practical and thought-provoking compilation of experiences focused on what drives and sustains successful organizations.

upload (v): *to put something like a photo onto a website*

My internet connection is so slow that it takes 5 minutes just to upload one photo.

seemingly (adv): *looks like it could be true, but it isn't necessarily*

Women who are seemingly powerful in their own right are not exempt from facing challenges such as domestic violence.

precious (adj): *of a high price or great value, beloved*

She cried when she realized that her precious jewels had been stolen.



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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS - Did you understand what you read?

1. Who was one of the main founders of Facebook?

- a. Bill Gates
- b. Steve Jobs
- c. Barack Obama
- d. Mark Zuckerberg

2. What type of site is Facebook?

- a. music
- b. social media
- c. non-profit
- d. bulletin board

3. What do you do if you only want your friends to see your posts?

- a. only invite people you know
- b. tell people you don't like them posting on your wall
- c. adjust your privacy settings
- d. don't create a Facebook account

4. Some people have a love-hate relationship with Facebook because:

- a. they don't know how to use it
- b. they hate reading other people's posts
- c. they don't like to post pictures
- d. they think that they waste too much time on it



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EXPANSION QUESTIONS - This is your turn to interact with the content and use English in a real way.

1. What types of things can you post on your Facebook wall?
2. What can you do on Facebook besides write on your wall and upload photos?
3. Do you think Facebook is a good thing or a bad thing for people?
4. Do you have a Facebook account? If so, how many hours a day do you use it?

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Ivy League

The Ivy League is a group of eight private universities in the Northeastern United States. The eight institutions are Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. These schools have a reputation of being highly selective in their admissions process and are considered to be academically excellent and rigorous.

The Ivy League has also been connected with the social elitism, and the last four American presidents have all attended Ivy League schools for at least part of their education—George H.W. Bush (Yale undergrad), Bill Clinton (Yale Law School), George W. Bush (Yale undergrad, Harvard Business School), and Barack Obama (Columbia undergrad, Harvard Law School).

Many famous actors, athletes, and entrepreneurial giants have attended, at least in part, an Ivy League school, including:

- Paul Newman - Yale
- Jack Lemmon - Harvard
- Meryl Streep - Yale



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- Conan O'Brien - Harvard
- Brooke Shields - Princeton
- Matt Damon - Harvard
- Jodie Foster - Yale
- Tommy Lee Jones - Harvard
- Jeremy Lin - Harvard (basketball)
- Lou Gehrig - Columbia (baseball)
- Bill Gates - Harvard (Microsoft)

Stanford

While Stanford is not part of the Ivy League, it is also considered one of the more prestigious universities in the US. It is located in California and has a long history of academic excellence as well. The founders of Google Larry Page and Sergey Brin attended Stanford.

ANSWERS

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was one of the main founders of Facebook?
Mark Zuckerberg
2. What type of site is Facebook?
social media
3. What do you do if you only want your friends to see your posts?
adjust your privacy settings
4. Some people have a love-hate relationship with Facebook because:
they think that they waste too much time on it



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EXPANSION QUESTIONS (possible answers - yours may vary) - If you want to improve your English writing, I can work with you via email. See www.englishfluencynow.com

1. I can post lots of things on my Facebook wall. I can post photos and links to other websites. I can share things that other people have posted on their walls and I can write about what I am doing.
2. I can start a page for my business. I can write a note. I can play video games like FarmVille.
3. I think Facebook is a good thing. I think it helps people to keep in touch with each other and it is fun to see photos of your friends. OR I think it is a bad thing. It is a useless waste of time. People should use the phone to keep in touch with their friends.
4. Yes, I have a Facebook account. I spend about one hour per day on Facebook. Sometimes I spend more time on FB if I am playing Words with Friends.

Here are some links that you can follow to find out more about topics related to this article.

www.facebook.com

<http://www.online-college-reviews.com/10-reasons-an-ivy-league-degree-is-overrated/>

An article about why Ivy League schools are overrated.

[Ivy League - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Wikipedia page on Ivy League

<http://www.ivyleaguesports.com/landing/index>

Ivy League sports page

<http://www.stanford.edu/>

Official page for Stanford University

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/05/is-facebook-making-us-lonely/8930/>

An article entitled Is Facebook making us lonely.