TEACHER'S NOTES

fomo

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary *Buzzword*** article on *fomo* and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes

Suggested level: Upper intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *Buzzword* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *Buzzword* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *Buzzword* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Ask students to read through the whole *Buzzword* article carefully.
4. Ask students to work in pairs to find the answers to the **Find the information** questions. Check the answers as a class.

   Look again at the answers to question 5 and explain that an *initialism* is an abbreviation consisting of initial letters pronounced separately, e.g. *BBC*. Can they give some other examples? How is an *acronym* different? (i.e. the initial letters form an abbreviation that is pronounced as a word). Can they give some examples of acronyms in English and / or their native language? Mention that they will be looking at abbreviations again later.

   The answer to question 6 is *Facebook narcissism*. What is *narcissism*? Look up the word in the Macmillan Dictionary if necessary. **Tip:** as a further reading activity, there is an article on *Facebook narcissism* in the *Buzzword* archive: http://www.macmillandictionary.com/*buzzword*/entries/facebook-narcissism.html.

   When students have completed exercise 3, ask them to correct the false statements.
5. Before completing exercise 4, point out the example of an 'unreal' ('third') conditional at the beginning of the third paragraph, i.e.: '...*because it's now much easier to see what <u>might have been if we'd decided</u> differently*.'. Remind students of the mechanics of 'unreal' conditional structures in English (i.e. *if* + past perfect tense + *would / could / might have* + past participle). After students have completed the exercise, check the answers as a class highlighting, if felt necessary, the following verb forms:

Q1: *if* + past perfect (*hadn't logged on*) + *wouldn't have* + past participle (*wouldn't have known*)
Q2: *if* + past perfect continuous (*she'd been concentrating*) + *wouldn't have* + past participle (*wouldn't have updated*)
Q3: *if* + past perfect continuous (*had been working*) + *might have* + past participle (*might have checked*)
Q4: *if* + past perfect continuous (*she'd been paying*) + *would have* + past participle (*probably would have noticed*)
Q5: *if* + past perfect (*had seen*) + *could have* + past participle (*could still have gone*)
Q6: *if* + past perfect (*hadn't heard*) + *wouldn't have* + past participle (*wouldn't have felt*)

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As an extension activity here, students could tell a partner about a time when they were disappointed that they had missed an opportunity to do something, and be encouraged to practise use of the unreal conditional, i.e: *if I had(n't) known / seen…, I would / could / might have …*

6. Before completing exercise 5, make sure that the students pick up the obvious clue that the first letter of each of the scrambled words corresponds to the letters in the abbreviation. After they have completed the exercise, ask them which, if any, of the abbreviations might count as acronyms (answer: *LOL*, which is now sometimes pronounced as a word, i.e. /lɒl/). What other such abbreviations do they know? And if they are regular users of social media / e-mail / text messaging, which abbreviations do they use? **Tip:** as a further reading activity, students might be interested in looking up the article on *OMG* in the *Buzzword* archive: http://www.macmillandictionary.com/*buzzword*/entries/omg.html.

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary** *Buzzword* article at:
http://www.macmillandictionary.com/*buzzword*/entries/fomo.html

1 Find the information

Read the *Buzzword* article on *fomo* and answer these questions.

1. What expression does the term *FOMO* stand for?
2. Is *FOMO* a positive or negative feeling?
3. How have Facebook and Twitter caused *FOMO*?
4. What is a *digital detox*?
5. Look at the background information. What two language forms are now used more often because of electronic communication and online discourse?
6. What expression is used to describe a kind of self-obsession caused by excessive use of social media?

2 Collocations

Match the words and phrases 1-6 with the words and phrases a-f to make expressions from the text.

1. attract	a. an impression
2. blissfully	b. fun
3. make	c. the profile
4. have	d. attention
5. a pang of	e. unaware
6. raise	f. envy

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. The word *FOMO* is an acronym.
2. The word *FOMO* is always written in capital letters.
3. *FOMO* sometimes makes people feel inadequate.
4. People are often unhappy when they find out about missed opportunities.
5. *FOMO* is a completely new idea.
6. Social media make it much more difficult to see what might have happened if we had made different decisions.

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4 What might have happened

Choose the best phrase to complete the sentences.

1. If I hadn't logged on to Facebook this morning, I *couldn't know / wouldn't have known* about the party.
2. If *she'd been concentrating / she was concentrating* on her homework, she wouldn't have updated her status.
3. If the internet connection had been working, he *would check / might have checked* his e-mail.
4. If she'd been paying more attention, she *could probably notice / probably would have noticed* the message.
5. If she'd seen the message earlier, Kate *would still go / could still have gone* to the party.
6. If I *hadn't heard / didn't hear* about the party, I wouldn't have felt jealous.

5 Abbreviations

Look at these abbreviations connected with electronic communication. Unscramble the letters to show what they stand for.

FOMO = **f**ear **o**f **m**issing **o**ut

1. LOL = l h u g a g i n t o u u l o d
2. IRL = n i l a e r e f i l
3. AFK = a y w a m o f r y e k d o r a b
4. IMO = n i y m n i p o n o i
5. HTH = e p o h s i t h s l e p h
6. FYI = r o f u y r o n i f r o n t a i m o

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. fear of missing out
2. negative (a feeling of anxiety, envy, self-doubt and inadequacy)
3. by making it very easy to know what other people are doing
4. a period of not using electronic devices
5. acronyms and initialisms
6. *Facebook narcissism*

2 Collocations

1. d
2. e
3. a
4. b
5. f
6. c

3 Comprehension check

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. False

4 What might have happened

1. wouldn't have known
2. she'd been concentrating
3. might have checked
4. probably would have noticed
5. could still have gone
6. hadn't heard

5 Abbreviations

1. laughing out loud
2. in real life
3. away from keyboard
4. in my opinion
5. hope this helps
6. for your information

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