PROVA AUDITIVA

CHOOSING A PROFILE PICTURE

Introduction

In this podcast you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

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a profile photo – una foto per al perfil d'una xarxa social / una foto para el perfil de una red social
to stretch – estirar / estirar
a shot – una foto / una foto
background – fons / fondo

Ready?
Now read the questions slowly before listening to the podcast.

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.

[0.25 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

0. Listeners worry about …

A. ☒ the pictures they put on their social network pages.
B. ☐ the messages they receive on their social network pages.
C. ☐ the popularity of their podcasts.
D. ☐ taking good photos.

1. A 'MySpace shot' is a photo taken …

A. ☐ by a friend.
B. ☐ by a professional photographer.
C. ☐ by the person in the photo.
D. ☐ with a webcam.

2. A profile photo …

A. ☐ affects how people think about you.
B. ☐ shouldn't be on your social network page.
C. ☐ shouldn't be original.
D. ☐ is the only thing you need on your social network page.

3. Sam is surprised …

A. ☐ at how original MySpace profile pictures are.
B. ☐ about how you take a MySpace shot.
C. ☐ that MySpace shots aren't the most popular.
D. ☐ by Kate's profile photo.

4. Sam and Kate don't know why …

A. ☐ people take photos of themselves in mirrors.
B. ☐ people include things from their bathrooms in their photos.
C. ☐ people like 'photo in the mirror' shots.
D. ☐ photos of bathrooms are allowed on social networking sites.

5. Pictures of you with your pets can tell the world that …

A. ☐ you have a nice personality.
B. ☐ you have lots of animals.
C. ☐ you don't like showing your emotions.
D. ☐ you have kittens and puppies for sale.

6. Photos of you taken in your personal space can give people an idea about your …

A. ☐ personality.
B. ☐ friendships.
C. ☐ intelligence.
D. ☐ home life.

7. If you're doing an activity in your profile photo, …

A. ☐ make sure that people can see your face.
B. ☐ it doesn't matter whether you know anything about the activity or not.
C. ☐ make sure you choose an activity that gives you a very sporty image.
D. ☐ make sure you choose an activity that you really do.

8. It's not necessary for people to …

A. ☐ look at the camera in their profile pictures.
B. ☐ smile in their profile pictures.
C. ☐ appear in their profile pictures.
D. ☐ have a profile picture.

Voice over: You're listening to the internet's favourite podcast with Kate Williams and Sam Jones.

Kate: Hi Sam!

Sam: Hi Kate! I'm sure that this week's podcast is going to be popular. We're talking about something that lots of our listeners worry about: their profile photo.

Kate: Yes, because your profile photo is more than just a picture. It's the first thing that people notice about your social network page, and the first information they have about what kind of person you are.

Sam: In fact, it says a lot about you and it has a big influence on the image you present to the world. What kind of photo have you got, Kate?

Kate: A MySpace shot.

Sam: You've got a MySpace *what*?

Kate: A MySpace shot. You know, when you stretch your arm out, hold your camera above your head and take a picture of yourself.

Sam: I must say I expected something more original from you!

Kate: Well, I'm going to change it because I've discovered that MySpace shots don't say anything about you. But it's only the second most popular type of profile photo.

Sam: And what's the first?

Kate: The 'photo in the mirror' shot. You must have seen lots of these, where people take photos of themselves in a mirror.

Sam: I have indeed. Most of them seem to be taken in people's bathroom mirrors and you can see things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, the dirty washing basket … I've never been able to understand why people want to show these things to the world!

Kate: Me neither, and that's why I've been researching social network sites to find out what makes a really good profile photo.

Sam: OK, so what kind of pictures can people take that will tell the world something interesting about them?

Kate: Well, just a simple picture of you holding your pet tells people something about you – you're an animal lover! It shows you're not afraid of showing your emotions and most people will get a positive image of the person in the picture – unless they don't like pets, of course!

Sam: That definitely sounds better than the MySpace and mirror shots, but what can you do if you don't have a pet?

Kate: Then use a picture of you in your personal space. The things on your shelves and the posters on your walls will give people an idea of the things you're interested in. For example, a person with lots of books appears to enjoy reading and people will think that they're intellectual! Or, if the background to your photo shows some posters on the wall, then viewers of your page will immediately know what sports, types of music, or films you like.

Sam: And what about more active pictures?

Kate: Well, the outdoor or holiday picture is a good one. A picture of you in an exotic location tells people that you are adventurous and open-minded.

Sam: Sounds good, but I'm not a big traveller.

Kate: Then you need a picture of you doing an activity such as playing a musical instrument or painting. If you're more active or sporty, then use a picture of you rock climbing or scuba diving. However, make sure you frequently do the activity that you choose to show in your profile picture. Otherwise, you might find

yourself chatting to people who are really into it and it could be quite embarrassing if you haven't got a clue about what the activity involves!

Sam: But if you're scuba diving or something like that, nobody can see your face.

Kate: It doesn't matter. In fact, some of the better profile pictures don't include the person at all.

Sam: How does that work?

Kate: Well, if you're into green issues, a picture connected to the subject will tell people that you are concerned about the environment. It will give the impression that you are responsible and thoughtful, and that you're into discussing important issues rather than talking about yourself.

Sam: OK, Kate, let's listen to what our listeners' opinions on the … *[fades]*