

Unit 1

Mum sent me a friend request!

You'll be able to:

1. describe parent-child relationships on social media;
2. discuss whether or not you would friend your parents on social media;
3. give advice on how to improve parent-child relationships.

Mum



Look at the picture and discuss:

1. What type of people would you friend on social media?
2. What would you do if your mum sent you a friend request?

Unit 1

Warming up

① Listen and match the word and phrases with the pictures. 🎧



funny video



new clothes and bag



latest news



selfie

Key sentences:

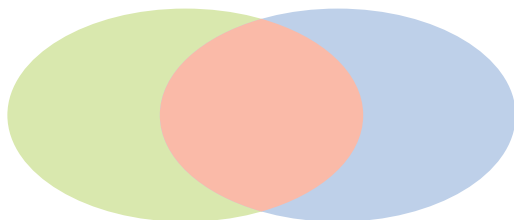
1. My parents usually share and comment on the latest news.
2. Jane posted a selfie with her friend Sandy.

Tips:

selfie: 自拍照, 尤指那些自拍后上传到社交网站的照片。

② List more things people share on social media and classify them.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> funny video | <input type="checkbox"/> new clothes and bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> latest news | <input type="checkbox"/> selfie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> health tips | <input type="checkbox"/> picture taken during a trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |



- What do you like to share?
- What do your parents like to share?
- What do you both like to share?

Listening and Speaking

1 Listen and learn the words and expressions.

skip class post limited profile friend request block
defriend social network delete password log on

2 Listen to the dialogue and practice.

Mum: Hey, son! Why did you skip class this afternoon?

Brian: How did you find out, Mum?

Mum: You posted a photo in a movie theatre on WeChat three hours ago.

Brian: Er... Mum, actually I was a little upset and I needed to do something to cheer up.

Mum: What's wrong?

Brian: You shared a baby picture of me, again! So I'm putting you on a limited profile.

Mum: Don't you like the photo? I think it's really cute. And what's "limited profile"?

Brian: Well, think of it as being grounded or put in to time out for a while or forever.

Mum: What? OK, who's that girl in the photo watching the movie with you?

Tips:

ground 和 time out 的意思是禁足和隔离犯错的孩子，是美国家庭和学校对做错事的孩子常用的处罚手段。

3 Listen again and choose the correct statement.

- Brian skipped class this morning.
- Brian watched a movie alone this afternoon.
- Brian's mum shared a baby picture of him.
- Brian's mum commented on his photo posted on WeChat.

4 Listen to the dialogue and practice.

(Tina hears an alert for a text message.)

Tina: My mum has sent me a friend request for the third time. Should I friend her?

Andy: You know what? Many of our classmates block or defriend their parents on their social networks.

Tina: Really? But it might hurt her feelings if my mum knew I blocked her.

Andy: Then try this! If she shares a picture that makes you feel bad, or a comment you don't like, just delete it.

Tina: How do I do that?

Andy: Help your mum set up an account and get the password. Then log on to her account.

Tina: But I'd still prefer an honest conversation first. Maybe I'll just tell her I need to keep some things only to myself.

5 Listen again. Complete and reorder the four steps to delete the things your mum posted.

1. delete her pictures or _____
2. get the _____
3. help her _____ an account
4. _____ her account




Reading and Writing

1 Read and learn the words and expressions. 🎧

upload over and over wall persona lyric spy on
like never before meaningless inspiring fake dig into privacy

2 Read the private message sent by the son to his parents. 🎧

← Mum ✓



Dear mum and dad,

I've decided to let you know that I'm blocking you on my Weibo forever. You love sharing photos of me and my brothers, but actually you keep uploading the same set of photos over and over. 🤔 When you're the very first people to press "like" on my newest photo and then comment "You are sooooo cute!", it makes me worry if people may think we still bathe together or something! 😞 There's really no need to like and share everything I post on my own Weibo wall. And my Internet persona isn't the person you've known and loved for 20 years. You don't need to worry if I would hurt myself when I just post sad lyrics. I love you guys but—sorry! 😞

3 Read again and discuss what drives the son crazy.



share the same photos over and over

Empty thought bubbles: blue, green, orange

4 Read about parent-child relationships on social media.

Social networks are for more convenient connections, rather than for more difficult communication. Surveys show that 55 percent of parents use social media to spy on their children. However, 30 percent of teens do not agree to friend their parents. Here are the voices from both sides.

Children's voice

Opinion 1:

Mum told me not to share too much about my personal life. I can't post freely with Mum reading. It's better to talk with her in real life. I'll tell her what I want her to know. But such relationships with parents brought us closer, like never before.

Parents' voice

Opinion 1:

I followed my daughter on WeChat using a fake account. I learned more about her. And I even followed her idol, a pop singer. I bought her two concert tickets to see that singer as a birthday gift. And she got wildly happy about that.

Opinion 2:

My mum always shares health tips or meaningless inspiring stories, so I blocked her recently. Yesterday, she asked me why Dad could read my recent posts but she hadn't seen any for a long time. I said there was a problem with her phone. And then I secretly unblocked her.

Opinion 2:

It's OK if my son blocks me. The more I dig into his secrets, the deeper he'll bury them. Everybody has his or her secrets. Parents also have things they keep from their kids. We all need private space.

Some young people try to balance protecting their privacy and their parents' feelings by creating two accounts—one for family and the other for friends. Does it work? And what would you do?

Tips:

写议论文时，将当事人的原话归类整理作为论据比改写更容易操作，也更有说服力。



- 5 List the advice on how to improve parent-child relationships on social networks according to the previous sections. Do you like or dislike it?

Advice	Like or dislike?
Parents and children all need private space.	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> 
	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> 
	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> 
	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> 

- 6 Role-play a dialogue between two teenagers about their parents with the words and expressions given.

<p>Student A (with helicopter parents) personal life, post freely, meaningless, recent, unblock</p>	<p>Student B (with open parents) fake account, idol, block, dig into, bury, keep from</p>
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- 7 Do you agree that parents should follow kids on social media? Work in groups and give your reasons.

<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Agree</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents know more about their children's life, so they may worry less. 	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents always criticise their children on social media.
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Language in Use

理解和运用社交网络新词汇

① Read the sentences and discuss the meaning of the underlined words.




1. My mum has sent me a friend request for the third time. Shall I friend her?
2. Many of our classmates block or defriend their parents on their social networks.
3. And then I secretly unblocked her.
4. I have to call everyone back. TTYL.

社交网络催生了许多新词，其中一些是旧词在语义上的拓展，例如，例 1 中的 friend 意为“把某人加入朋友圈”，而通过前缀“de”（去掉……）能够猜出例 2 中的 defriend 是“拉黑”的意思。此外，例 4 中 TTYL (talk to you later) 在年轻人中十分流行。类似的英语缩略语有很多，比如 WTH (what the heck)，OMG (oh my god) 等。我们在阅读时结合语境，应该不难猜出其含义。

② Complete the survey report with the proper form of the words in the box.

wall update friend follow block load

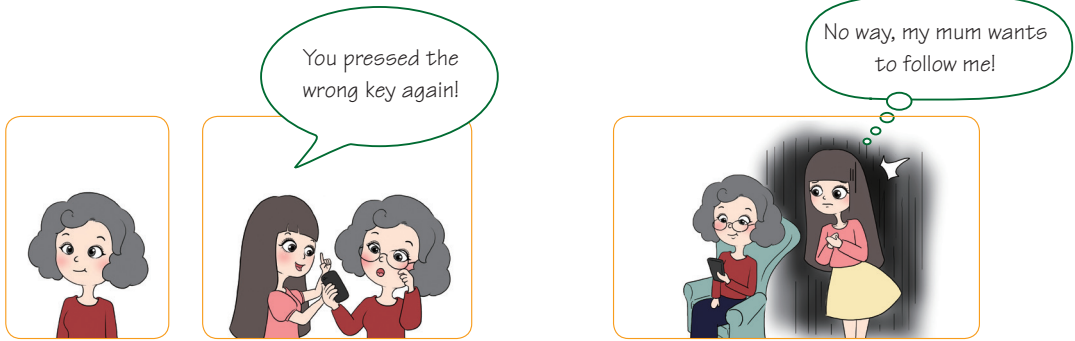
A survey shows that 30% of children say they would _____ their parents if they could. But 50% of parents still _____ their kids on social media. How do they do it?

Check on status _____	41%	
See the posts on their Weibo _____	39%	
_____ family photos	29%	

One interesting result is that 20% of children say they block and then _____ their parents several times.

More Activities

1 Read the comic story “Mum learns to use a smartphone”. 🎧



My mum is 50 years old this year. Recently she decided to learn how to use a smartphone. And it's way more difficult than I thought.

The only reason why she did this is to see my Weibo and the posts I shared on WeChat Friend Circle.



Nearly all my friends have been through this.

So I rejected the friend request from my mum. But once my cousin told me that my mum often visited her at home and checked my posts on WeChat with her account, and I got mad.

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However, one day, I recalled something. My mum once said, "My eyesight keeps getting worse and I'm afraid that I would no longer be able to see clearly in a few years. Maybe I won't be able to see you any more."... I took my mum off my blacklist and shared some of my photos with her.

My mum printed those photos and put them on her desk. She wanted to know more about my life, and that way she felt I'm closer to her. Am I being too mean? Since when did "sharing with mum" become something of a luxury? Please don't keep your life all to yourself!

- 2 Retell the story from Mum's point of view.
- 3 Read the comments and add your own.

Springtime:

I'm in tears, but I still cannot take a risk.

NO

The Sun Shines:

This is also not right. Some things on Weibo or WeChat will make parents worry too much, so blocking some information is also kind of being responsible.

Autumn Leaves:

All right then, I'll take my mum off the blacklist.

YES

New Youth:

As we have become adults, they have become children. Just like when they taught us how to play with toys when we were kids, now it is our turn.

- 4 Discuss and make some rules for parents if they want to join your WeChat Friend Circle.

Around the World

“Tiger Mum” on social networks


Parents are alike all over the world when they follow their children on social networks. But a “Tiger Mum” in the US showed people the worst thing that could happen. The mum hijacked her son’s Facebook page, and punished him for what he did to a classmate.



Danny

Hi, this is Danny’s mum. I want to let you all know that he is no longer allowed on Facebook, due to the choices he made today. He posted the personal information about someone. Whether the information was true or not, it was rude to do so. Because he chose to make her mad by spreading her personal information, I think he should know how it feels when the tables are turned. He wet the bed until he was 8.

14 minutes ago · Like · Comment

 You and 126 others like this.

The post received hundreds of comments, and most people seemed to think that this mum did the right thing by teaching her son a lesson. What do you think?



Susan

I think he’s learned the lesson: treat others the way you want to be treated.



Jeff

I mean, it WAS great parenting up until the last sentence.



Leo

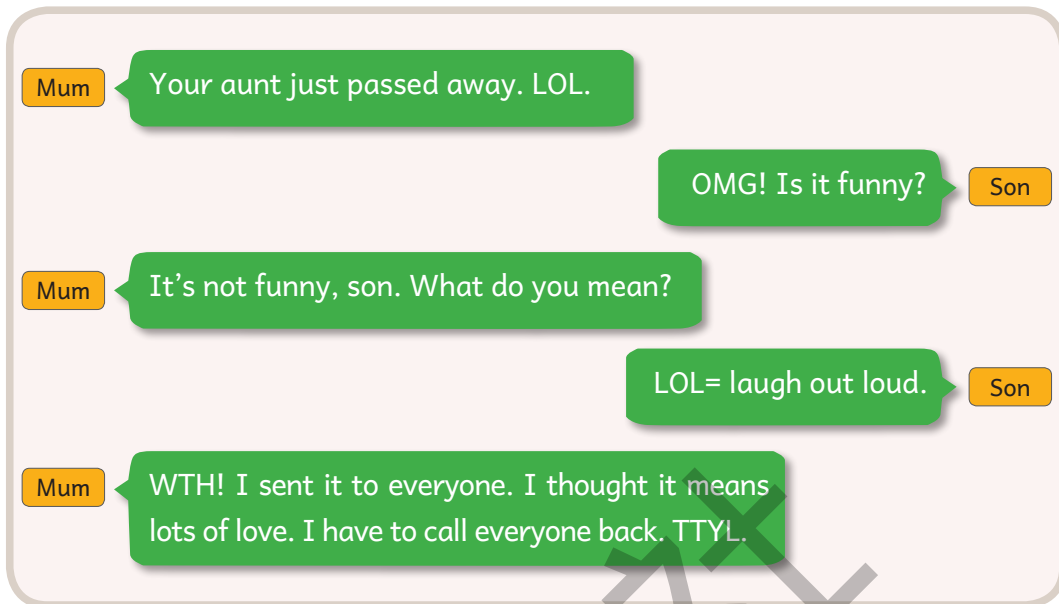
He’ll remember that if he does the same thing again.



Lemon Tree

He might wet the bed tonight! Defriend my mum right now!

Fun Time



Mum: Your aunt just passed away. LOL.

Son: OMG! Is it funny?

Mum: It's not funny, son. What do you mean?

Son: LOL= laugh out loud.

Mum: WTH! I sent it to everyone. I thought it means lots of love. I have to call everyone back. TTYL.

My Progress Check

I can describe parent-child relationships on social media with:

post limited profile friend request block friend defriend delete
upload over and over spy on meaningless inspiring fake dig into privacy

My mum has sent me a friend request for the third time.

Many of our classmates block or defriend their parents on their social networks.

I'd still prefer an honest conversation first.

I'll just tell her I need to keep some things only to myself.

We all need private space.

Great! I want to learn more!