



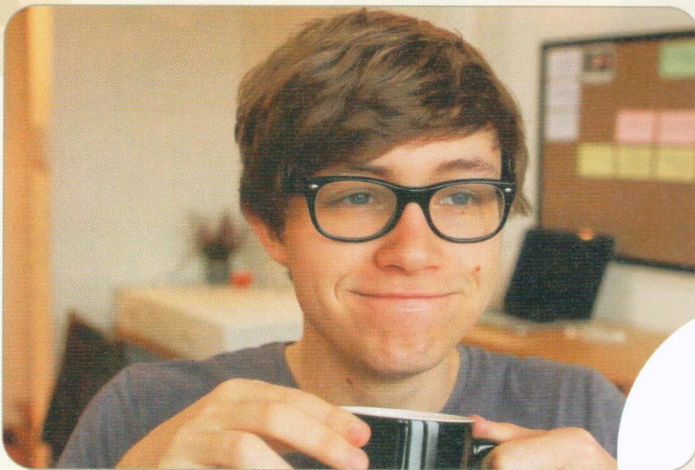
## Online Teenage Projects

### Reading

- 1 In what ways do people your age use the Internet that older people do not? Why has Internet culture become so popular among teenagers?
- 2 Read the title of the text and look at the pictures. What is a vlogger? What kinds of things do you think vloggers post about? Read to find out.

# A generation of vloggers

In the past, British teenagers used diaries to record their thoughts, feelings and experiences – and their diaries stayed private. Nowadays, many youngsters in the UK comment on their lives and the world in general publicly, with vlogs (video blogs). Some vloggers are so successful that they have hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of followers on video-sharing sites such as YouTube! Here are some young Brits who have become stars of the Internet age.



**Charlie McDonnell** started posting videos to YouTube, where his channel is called *charlieissocoollike*, when he was 17. With his humour, warmth and enthusiasm for life and learning, he became the first British vlogger to attract a million subscribers on the site. Some of his videos reflect teenage life; one is called *Understanding Teenage Boys*, and in another he performs a song about having spots! Others are more educational, like his *Fun Science* series, which Charlie turned into a book. Charlie has also made documentary films outside YouTube, and has used his Internet fame to help many charities.

**Dan Howell** says he simply wanted to “attempt to be entertaining” when he began uploading videos to YouTube at the age of 18. To do this, he talked about his most embarrassing moments on his channel *danisnotonfire*, such as the time a London Underground train door closed on his head! His confessions were a big hit, and in 2013 he and his best friend were asked to host a weekly show on the national BBC radio station Radio 1. ‘I let you laugh at my life so you can feel better about yours,’ says Dan, adding, ‘You can learn from my many mistakes.’ Dan’s latest YouTube channel is called *danisnotinteresting*. It seems his 1.6 million subscribers disagree!



**3** Which person, C (Charlie), D (Dan) or K (KSI):

- 1 sang about a skin problem? .....
- 2 discusses his failures online? .....
- 3 became a professional musician? .....
- 4 used YouTube to demonstrate a hobby? .....
- 5 impressed a media organisation? .....
- 6 made history on YouTube? .....




**KSI**, whose real name is Olajide Olatunji, became a YouTube celebrity after he began posting videos about football video games when he was 14. His videos featured his best moments from his game console sessions as well as advice for other players. A few years after his channel first appeared, he teamed up with another YouTube video maker to record a rap song about one of his favourite footballers, Emile Heskey. Several more rap performances followed, and then KSI was invited to work with successful rapper Sway. Since then KSI has become a rap recording artist for a well-known record company.

**Vocabulary**


**4** Complete the sentences using words from this list: *publicly, confession, enthusiasm, reflect, follower, upload, subscriber, host, charity*. Use the three extra words to form sentences based on the text.

- 1 The vlogger's posts ..... the thoughts of the average teenager.
- 2 Gary is shy and doesn't have much ..... for recording himself on video.
- 3 I don't like this YouTube channel enough to become a ..... to it.
- 4 Vlogs give people the chance to ..... express their feelings and opinions.
- 5 The last video I made of my dog is really funny; maybe I should ..... it to my social media pages.
- 6 They've asked the popular vlogger to ..... a TV show.

**Speaking & Writing**

**5**  Work in pairs. Choose one of the successful vloggers presented in the text and take turns to ask and answer questions about them.

- A: *How old was Charlie MacDonnel when he posted his first video?*
- B: *He was 17 years old.*

**6**  Do some online research to find out information about a popular vlogger in your country. Write a short paragraph including information on when they started vlogging, what sort of things they post about and how popular they are. Read your paragraph to the class.

**CHECK THESE WORDS** !

publicly, log, follower, enthusiasm, subscriber, reflect, spot, confession, host, feature



## Modern Leisure Activities

- 1 How do people enjoy the outdoors in your country? Are there any modern sports that are particularly popular?

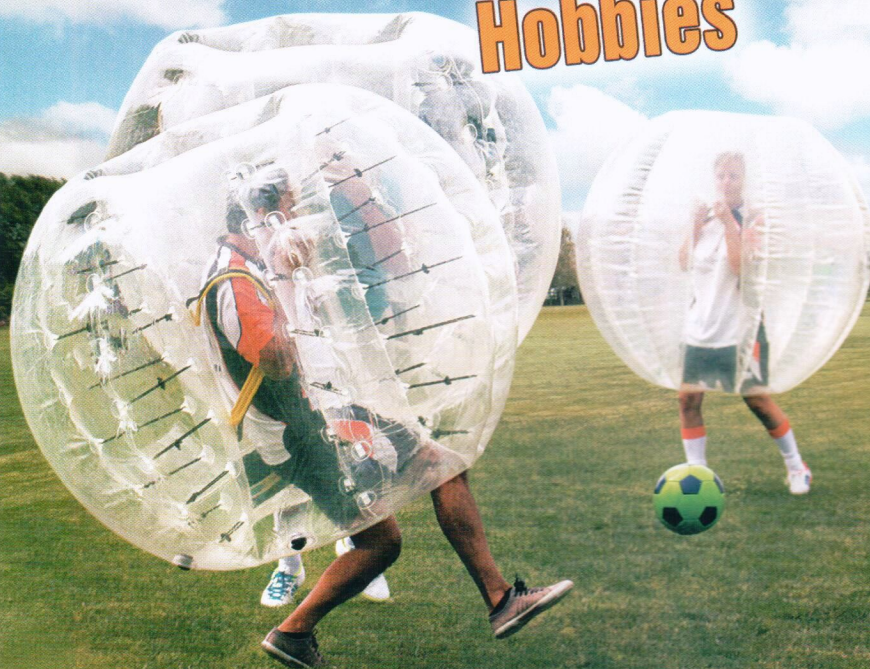
### Reading

- 2 Look at the pictures and headings. Which leisure activity most appeals to you? Why?

- 3 Read the text and correct the sentences below.

- 1 In regular zorbing, the ball is rolled along a grassy field.
- 2 Inflatable balls help players to crash into other players.
- 3 Simon Beck used to enjoy skiing.
- 4 Simon's pieces of sand art take days to complete.
- 5 Go-karting grew in popularity little by little in the UK.
- 6 Outdoor karting is less popular than indoor karting in the UK.

## Weird & Wonderful Hobbies



### Bubble fun

It's fun to throw and kick an inflatable ball in the park or on the beach in summer – and for some Brits these days it's also fun to climb inside one and take a ride! This is called zorbing, and there are a few ways to enjoy it. Some thrill-seekers like to sit in a safety harness attached to the inside of the ball. The ball is then made to roll down a hill. A more energetic – and less scary – form of zorbing involves standing in the ball and controlling its direction. This can be done on water, and it's popular at British theme parks and family festivals. There's also 'bubble football'. In this new sport, the players wear inflatable balls that cover everything but their legs – so they can crash into other players without suffering any injuries as they try to win the ball. They simply bounce off each other!



## Vocabulary


4 Match the words to make phrases, then use the phrases in sentences of your own.

- |                            |            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | early      | A harness  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | physical   | B days     |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | inflatable | C activity |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | ski        | D ball     |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | safety     | E resort   |

### CHECK THESE WORDS!

inflatable, thrill-seeker, safety harness, attached, bounce off, canvas, rake, spectator, introduce, construction, competitive, get involved in

## Speaking & Writing

5  Work in pairs. Imagine you are in Britain and you want to persuade a friend to try one of the following activities with you: watching a sand artist work, zorbing, bubble football, go-karting. Prepare a dialogue and then act it out for the rest of your class.

A: *Why don't we go zorbing? It looks exciting.*

B: *I don't know. Isn't it dangerous?*

A: *No, to make sure you're safe ...*

6  ICT Do some online research to find out about a successful sand artist, zorbing fan, bubble footballer or go-kart racer in your country. Write a short paragraph about a person you find.

### Simon Beck, sand artist

As a young man, Simon Beck enjoyed running, but by the time he had reached his 40s he had foot problems, so he needed to find a physical activity that was both fun and gentle on his body. He began to create giant pictures in snow in Europe's ski resorts. He realised it was very satisfying, and wanted to continue making art from nature in the summer months, so he began using beaches in Somerset, south-west England, as his canvas. He draws lines and shapes by pulling a heavy rake across the sand. Some of his designs take more than 10 hours to complete, and spectators enjoy watching him work from the cliffs above the shore. Simon photographs his creations before the sea destroys them, so they become permanent artworks.



### It's all go!

When an American based in the north of England introduced go-karting to the UK in 1959, a few years after the first go-kart race in the US, it quickly grew in popularity. In the early days of British go-karting, people didn't just race each other, the design and construction of these unique vehicles were competitive too. It's less common for people to build their own karts now, but there are karting centres all over the country where people of all ages can get involved in the sport. Children as young as six can drive some types of karts, so a karting session is a good way to celebrate a youngster's birthday. Go-karting fans around Europe prefer electric, indoor karting. The British, however, choose to drive petrol karts outdoors. Perhaps this is why Britain produces a lot of Formula 1 racing stars!

