ESL BRAINS

Filter Bubbles

1. Complete the questions below with words.

vlogs	*scroll*	*browsing*
google	*reliable*	*posts*
bookmark	*streaming*	*article*

a) When browsing Google search results, do you ever scroll down to the bottom of and go the second page?

b) How often do you publish comments or read news posts on your social media?

c) What is your favorite YouTube channel? What vlogs do you follow?

d) What type of information do you google most often?

e) What negative consequences may live streaming on Facebook have?

f) What links or sites do you bookmark so that you can easily find them again?

g) How do you find reliable information online?

h) Have you ever fact-checked an article you found online? If yes, how did you do it?

2. Work in pairs and answer questions from ex. 1.

3. Discuss:

- Mark Zuckerberg once said : "*A squirrel dying in front of your house may be more relevant to your interests right now than people dying in Africa.*"
  Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?

4. Watch an [interactive video](#) and complete the tasks you see during it.

Questions in the interactive video:

1) What are 'filter bubbles'? What are their negative aspects in your opinion?

2) Select the synonyms of the word 'prohibited' (as used in the video)

   a. banned   d. discouraged

   b. restricted   e. hidden

   c. off limits

3) Fill the gap: This led to a ____hardening_____ of their political stance.

4) Think what kind of benefits personalized search engines can have

5) Pick the ways we can get out of a filter bubble:

a. use different devices for searching online

b. balance your knowledge on different topics

c. doubt the content you see online

d. expand your news source

5. Match halves to create common expressions.

1) limit
2) edit
3) expand
4) open your mind
5) close yourself
6) challenge
7) curate
8) think

a. your horizons 3
b. the content 7
c. your view 1
d. beyond your comfort zone 8
e. off to new ideas 5
f. out information 2
g. your assumptions 6
h. to other points of view 4

6. Discuss the questions below:

- What news do you find relevant? Are you focused mostly on local news? Or things that appear on your social media stream?

- How do you feel about the fact that information you get online is curated by algorithms?

- How can filter bubbles and algorithms influence election?

- How should we deal with filter bubbles online? Can we force corporations to stop curating what they serve us?

- Why is thinking beyond our comfort zone so difficult?

- How can other people help us to challenge our assumptions?

- Why do people decide to close themselves off to new ideas and concepts?