PODCAST: DIGITAL HOARDING



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Expemo code:
1KIJ-41LF-9E9

1 Warm up

In pairs, answer the questions below.

1. How many emails have you got in your inbox right now? How many of them have you actually read?
2. Do you take more than one photo of the same thing so you can choose the best one later? Do you delete the other ones once you've chosen the best one?
3. How often do you delete your text messages?
4. Is your digital life organised?



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2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Complete the following definitions with the missing word.

collects embarrassed express hesitating large told

1. **hoarder (n) -** someone who _____ a great number of things
2. **reluctant (adj.) -** not wanting to do something and _____ to do it
3. **tons (n) -** a _____ amount of something
4. **uneasy (adj.) -** afraid or _____ of something
5. **compliant (adj.) -** doing what someone is _____
6. **understatement (n) -** something that doesn't _____ the extent of something

Part B: Match the words and phrases with their definitions.

1.	cybersecurity (n)	a.	something that can be done
2.	unsubscribe (v)	b.	an email that companies send to all members regularly
3.	newsletter (n)	c.	something that is done by a machine, not a person
4.	untick (v)	d.	remove your email from a company's mailing list
5.	automatically (adv.)	e.	remove a tick from a box
6.	doable (adj.)	f.	online safety

3 Optional listening task

Look at the first part of the podcast transcript. Fill in the gaps with the given words. Listen and check.

content data desktop digital easier
emotional inbox oldest understatement uneasy

Angus: Hello, and welcome to Angus and Helen's podcast. I'm Angus...

Helen: ... and I'm Helen.

Angus: Helen, if I were to look over your shoulder when you were at your desk, how many emails would I see in your _____[1]?

Helen: I can tell you exactly. Let me just check my app ... just give me a sec ... 24,193.

Angus: That's what I thought ... you're a _____[2] hoarder: someone who is very reluctant to delete online data.

Helen: I just don't like deleting emails, that's all.

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Angus: OK, let's look for other signs then: how many icons are there on your _____[3]?

Helen: Loads.

Angus: Do you know roughly how many apps you have on your phone?

Helen: No idea, too many.

Angus: What's your _____[4] text message?

Helen: I don't delete those either, so over 10 years old, for sure. I guess I am a digital hoarder then.

Angus: Well, now that we've established that, let's find out what type of digital hoarder you are.

Helen: How many types are there?!

Angus: Four. The 'collector' has tons of digital _____[5], but it's very well organised, so they can find anything easily. Many argue that they're not really hoarders for that reason, but digital collecting still has the negative consequences of hoarding.

Helen: In any case, definitely not me! It takes me ages to find stuff on my computer. What's the next one?

Angus: The 'anxious' hoarder. They feel _____[6] when deleting anything at all because they might need it one day. In a way, these are the closest to physical hoarders.

Helen: That sounds more familiar, but let's hear the other two first.

Angus: Next, we have the 'compliant' hoarder. That's when someone keeps work-related documents for their company. They have no _____[7] connection to the data, but like to keep it as evidence for future use.

Helen: Not me either. Most of my data is personal. What's the last one?

Angus: The 'accidental' hoarder. These are just lost in so much data, and don't know what to do with it. They're not very organised in real life either and keep stuff just because it's _____[8] than deleting it.

Helen: That's me! That's exactly how I am! But what's the big deal? I mean, I've got enough storage space.

Angus: That's not really the point. There are serious problems with digital hoarding at different levels. One of the biggest problems is environmental: this data is kept somewhere, most likely at a _____[9] centre.

Helen: Those huge places with lots of supercomputers? Yeah, I've heard they're not very good for the environment.

Angus: That's an _____[10]! Data centres use massive amounts of water to cool down the machines, and they already use around 1% of electricity on the planet, a percentage that is growing quickly. They are also responsible for 2.5% of global carbon emissions. That's more than the aviation industry!

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4 Listening to podcast

Part A: Listen to the first part of the podcast (00:00-03:07). Are these sentences True or False?

1. Angus looked above Helen's shoulder and checked her emails. _____
2. Angus suspected Helen was a digital hoarder. _____
3. Helen has more than one sign she's a hoarder. _____
4. Helen agrees she's a digital hoarder at some point. _____
5. The 'Anxious hoarders' and offline hoarders are quite similar. _____
6. Someone in Helen's family is an anxious hoarder. _____

Part B: Listen to the second part of the podcast (03:07-06:05). Put the topics in the order they are mentioned.

____ Something hard but necessary

____ Tips to reduce electronic clutter

____ Something that can take a long time to do, but it's best to organise

____ Something that can be quickly done on your phone

Part C: Complete the sentences below with a word or short phrase from below. Then listen to the whole podcast again and check.

apps centre data delete desktop hacked icons inboxes space

1. Helen has loads of _____ on her _____.
2. Helen doesn't think she is an 'Anxious Hoarder' because most of her _____ is not work-related.
3. Storage _____ is not the main problem when it comes to digital hoarding.
4. The information we keep online is likely to be stored in a data _____.
5. There can be very negative consequences if digital hoarders are _____.
6. We should delete all unnecessary emails from our _____.
7. We should also delete all the unnecessary _____ on our mobiles.
8. People often forget to _____ the extra photos they take.

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5 Speaking practice

In pairs, follow the instructions below. Then swap roles and repeat the task.

- **Student A:** Choose one kind of digital hoarder you heard on the podcast. You asked a friend to help you because your phone and laptop are slow, you don't have enough storage space and it takes too long to find something you need on your devices.

- **Student B:** You used to be a digital hoarder and know how to help your friend. First, find out what kind of hoarder your friend is and then try to help him by giving tips on what they should do.

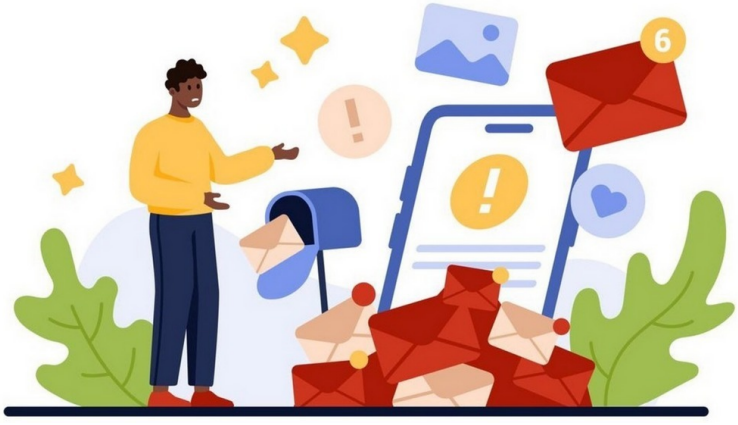
6 Language point

Part A: Read the extract below, then answer the questions together with a partner.

> *'just give me a **sec** ... 24,193.'*

1. What were Helen and Angus talking about?
2. What do you think the underlined word is short for?

- People can abbreviate some words when they speak, which means they use a shorter word instead of a long one to sound more natural.
- For example: instead of saying *'hold on a second'* people can say *'hold on a sec'* in informal situations.



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Part B: Read the sentences below and try to abbreviate the words underlined. Then, say if the sentences are true for you.

1. There are so many **applications** I don't use on my phone!

   _____

2. When an influencer is being paid to talk about a product, they must say it's an **advertisement**.

   _____

3. There is so much **information** on how to be safe online, I don't know how people are still hacked!

   _____

4. I have to delete some old **pictures** because I don't have enough storage data!

   _____

5. I subscribe to too many **websites**, so my inbox is full of their newsletters!

   _____

7 Talking point

In pairs, discuss the questions below.

1. What questions do you still have about this topic?
2. Do you think you are a digital hoarder? What type of hoarder are you?
3. Do you do any of the tips Angus mentioned? Will you start doing any?

8 Extension activities / homework

Task A: Listen to the teacher's instructions.

Task B: In groups, record a video with the title 'Being a Digital Hoarder'. Mention:

- the consequences of being a hoarder
- the four types of digital hoarders
- some tips to help digital hoarders get rid of unnecessary things

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