



Surveillance

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where do surveillance cameras belong?
2. How are people being watched online?
3. How much do you value your own privacy?

“You have zero privacy anyway. Get over it.”

—Scott G. McNealy,
founder of a US computer technology company

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. watch over | a) to cause something to appear fuzzy |
| ___ 2. play back | b) to observe closely in order to make sure a person or situation stays safe |
| ___ 3. tap | c) to review a recorded version |
| ___ 4. global positioning | d) to use a special device to spy on someone’s phone conversation |
| ___ 5. suit | e) using satellite technology to keep track of movement |
| ___ 6. infringement | f) to match well, to be appropriate |
| ___ 7. have a different take | g) to have a different opinion |
| ___ 8. invade | h) a violation or breaking of a contract or right |
| ___ 9. blur | i) one’s romantic partner or spouse |
| ___ 10. significant other | j) to go into a place where you aren’t welcome |

Reading

SURVEILLANCE

Who is keeping an eye on you today?

1. Look around for a moment. Do you see any cameras, officers, or computers? Chances are someone or something is watching you. The word *surveillance* comes from a French word meaning “to watch over.” While some forms of surveillance are for your protection, others could be used against you. After all, there is a big difference between being **watched over** and being watched!
2. Who or what is observing your everyday actions today? It could be your neighbor’s hidden security camera or an officer at your child’s school. At this very moment, the owner of your local gas station may be **playing back** a tape of you paying at the pump. Some parents install **global positioning** devices on their kids’ cell phones. In many countries, a phone can be **tapped** by law enforcement at any time. According to some sources, all digital communication in the US is recorded and stored.
3. Are you safe from surveillance in the privacy of your own home? Not if you use the Internet! Ads **suited** to your own interests pop up on a regular basis. Your search history provides a lot of information that marketers want! Many Internet users don’t appreciate this **infringement** of privacy. Key players in the communications industry **have a different take** on privacy. In their opinion, targeted ads exist for your convenience. Google’s former CEO Eric Schmidt said this: *“If you have something that you don’t want anyone to know, maybe you shouldn’t be doing it in the first place.”*
4. Google is often accused of **invading** the privacy of its users. Did Google Street View cars map out your neighborhood? Google used special technology to **blur** people’s faces as it mapped out streets all over the world. Many people consider this an invasion of privacy nonetheless. How would you feel if Google caught your **significant other** at an address where he or she *shouldn’t* have been?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What type of statement is used in the first line of the reading?
2. What is the difference between being watched and being watched over?
3. How can parents track their children’s movements?
4. Why do people have less privacy in their own homes these days?
5. Why does the reading mention Google’s virtual maps?

Vocabulary Review

Show that you have a good understanding of the vocabulary from this reading by answering YES or NO to the following questions:

- _____ 1. Do police **tap** suspects' cars when they are looking for evidence?
- _____ 2. Would the media **blur** the license plate of a car shown on the news?
- _____ 3. Do neighbors **watch over** each other's televisions?
- _____ 4. Do some tablets have **global positioning** devices?
- _____ 5. Is it normal for a person to forget the name of his or her **significant other**?
- _____ 6. Is a cage **suited** to an elephant's needs?

Grammar Review

"Our **everyday** actions are being monitored **every day!**" When used as an adjective, "everyday" is written as one word. The adjective is placed in front of the noun. When used as an adverbial expression (time expression), two words are used: "every day." Choose the correct form to complete each sentence.

1. This is an _____ problem.
(everyday / every day)
2. I have this problem _____ .
(everyday / every day)
3. I want to learn new words _____ .
(everyday / every day)
4. I want to learn _____ expressions.
(everyday / every day)
5. Is this an _____ occurrence, or does it only happen once in a while?
(everyday / every day)
6. _____ when I come home, I see the lights on in the window.
(Everyday / Every day)

Discussion Questions

1. Think of some extreme forms of surveillance that you have heard of or seen. Discuss these with your classmates.
2. Should students be watched more closely at school? For example, should parents have access to information about what their kids do and eat during school breaks?
3. If you're in a subway station or shopping center with video cameras, do you feel safer?

Critical Thinking

In 2010, BlackBerry phones were declared a "security threat" in the United Arab Emirates. Services that were "too secure" (e.g., Messenger) were banned by the government. Should communication providers cooperate with governments who want to monitor their citizens' activity this closely?

Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.eslibrary.com/2013/06/05/podcast-surveillance/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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1. French, being watched
2. law enforcement
3. regular basis, former
4. technology

ANSWERS: