

## SELFIES

1. **SELFIES:** Students try to brainstorm on the vocabulary associated to Selfies

2. **CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

*travellers / danger / life threatening / ubiquitous / lethal / shark / world famous / site / accidents / circumstances / hand grenade / train tracks / government / spokeswoman*

Have a chat about the topics you liked.

3. **DANGER:** What dangers could these things pose? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Possible dangers	How dangerous
Video games		
Driving		
Fast food		
Hiking		
Using a mobile phone		
Travelling overseas		

4. **BANNED:** Students A **strongly** believe selfie sticks should be banned; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. **PHOTOS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- selfies
- nature photos
- photos of babies
- family photos
- photos of food
- wedding photos
- photos of kittens
- celebrity pics

6. **CAMERA:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "camera". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories

1. **TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article said a new danger is enlightening. T / F
- b. The article says the new danger is now very common in our lives. T / F
- c. The new danger has been twice as deadly as shark attacks this year. T / F
- d. Sharks have killed six people in unprovoked attacks this year. T / F
- e. Wikipedia outlined the way in which 12 people died because of selfies. T / F
- f. Three Russians died taking a selfie with a hand grenade. T / F
- g. An American man died after he fell off a cliff in South Africa. T / F
- h. A Russian government spokeswoman said 6 people died in Russia. T / F

2. **SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- 1. note                      a. deadly
- 2. hazard                    b. consider
- 3. ubiquitous              c. most recent
- 4. lethal                     d. very common
- 5. resulted in              e. situations
- 6. circumstances         f. danger
- 7. death                     g. journalists
- 8. latest                     h. exclusively
- 9. reporters                i. lead to
- 10. alone                    j. end

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	<i>note a new</i>	a. <i>of life</i>
2.	recently come	b. related deaths
3.	a ubiquitous part	c. danger
4.	a world-	d. grenade
5.	six deaths due to unprovoked	e. of circumstances
6.	happen in all manner	f. train
7.	hand	g. shark attacks
8.	killed by an oncoming	h. of himself
9.	trying to get a shot	i. to light
10.	selfie-	j. famous site

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. Who, besides travellers, needs to note a new danger?
2. How common in our life is this new danger?
3. How many times as lethal as shark attacks are deaths due to selfies?
4. Who does the article say people strike a pose with?
5. How many people died in 2015 from unprovoked shark attacks?
6. What website detailed the selfie deaths?
7. What were two Russian men taking a selfie with?
8. Where did three Indian students die?
9. What did an American woman fall to her death from?
10. At what world-famous site did a Japanese tourist die?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'selfie'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) How important are selfies to you?
- 5) What's the favourite photo you have of yourself?
- 6) Why is the world selfie-crazy?
- 7) What safety instructions should be on selfie sticks ?
- 8) Should selfie sticks be banned?
- 9) How dangerous are selfies?
- 10) Do you like photos of yourself?

Travellers and phone-camera lovers need to note a new danger that has recently come to light. This new life-threatening hazard has sprung up in the past few years and is now a ubiquitous part of life. It is also proving to be twice as lethal as being killed by a shark. What is this potential new menace? Well, it is the selfie. Yes – love 'em or hate 'em, the desire to take a photo of yourself in front of a world-famous site or to strike a pose and pout with a friend has resulted in more deaths in 2015 than shark attacks. It has been reported that so far this year, 12 people have died as a result of trying to take a selfie. This compares to just six deaths due to unprovoked shark attacks.

Selfie-related accidents can happen in all manner of circumstances. The website Wikipedia.com has detailed the twelve deaths seen this year. They include two Russian men who were killed while taking a selfie with a hand grenade; three Indian students who were killed by an oncoming train while taking selfies on train tracks; and an American woman who fell to her death while taking a selfie with her boyfriend on a cliff in South Africa. The latest death came last month when a Japanese tourist died falling down the stairs while trying to get a shot of himself at the Taj Mahal in India. There may be more. A Russian government spokeswoman told reporters that in July, there were, "dozens of selfie-related deaths" in Russia alone.