

Text by Lemisse Al-Hafidh

<http://fr-fr.facebook.com/>

# facebook®

Profile

▼ edit

Friends

▼ edit

Networks

▼ edit

Inbox

▼ edit

home

▼ logout

The billion\* dollar kid.

I'm the founder\* of Facebook. I'm only 24.



Passport

Name: Mark Zuckerberg  
Age: 24  
Date of birth: 14 May 1984  
Place of birth: Dobbs Ferry, New York, USA  
Job: Chief Executive Officer of Facebook  
Did you know? At age 23, he became the youngest billionaire in the world.



### Do it, don't do it on Facebook

- On your profile:
- DO** alter the Privacy\* settings. If not, anyone can see your Facebook profile.
- DO** control the types of information you share\* with friends.
- DON'T** put photos of your friends if you have not asked their permission.
- DON'T** put personal information on the site (address, telephone number ...).
- DON'T** open your profile to everyone. It can be dangerous to invite strangers\*.

Today, everyone knows Facebook, the social networking\* site. In just five years it has become the fifth most popular site in the world. Here is the story of its success.

### Are you on Facebook?

Are you over 13 years old? If you are, you probably have a profile on Facebook. Your profile is like a diary\*: you can talk about yourself, your family, your friends, your favourite films, music, books, hobbies, etc. You can also add\* photos to your profile.

### Lots of friends

But Facebook is not a private\* diary: you can give access to your friends and family to see your profile. You can also see your friends' profiles, meet new friends and join\* networks\* organized by your school, city, region, etc.

### A modern obsession

Facebook has changed the way\* we communicate. People want to communicate with lots of people at the same time, not just with one person. For many teenagers Facebook has replaced the traditional e-mail.

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### 150 million users\*

Facebook is free\* and easy to use, so\* it is popular with people of all ages. Today Facebook has more than 150 million users from every continent. Mark Zuckerberg, the company's\* founder\*, says: "If Facebook were a country, it would be the eighth\* most populated in the world." But how has Facebook grown\* so quickly?

### A site for students

Mark Zuckerberg was only 20 years old when he created Facebook in 2004. He was a student\* at Harvard University and created Facebook as a social network for the students there. It was an immediate success. After the first month, over 50% of the university's

students were members. Just four months later, 30 other universities were connected to Facebook. Mark Zuckerberg went to Silicon Valley, in California, to help Facebook grow. And it grew\* very quickly!

In 2005, when Zuckerberg made it possible to share\* photos on Facebook, the site became more popular. In 2006, Facebook opened to people over age 13. By 2007, the site had 50 million users.

### Big friend or Big Brother?

Facebook has become a powerful\* tool\* for communication. In 2008 Barack Obama won\* his presidential campaign thanks to Facebook.

Some people say it has become too powerful. The site stocks the profiles of its users in an enormous database. Some people think Facebook could give your information to the police or to the government. And you cannot delete\* your profile. You have to contact Facebook to ask for your account\* be permanently deleted.

### The future of Facebook

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder\* of Facebook, has lots of new projects for his site. Today Facebook is even\* accessible on your mobile telephone.

Some people say he is a geek\*. Some people say he is a genius. One thing is sure, Zuckerberg has changed the way we use the internet. ■

▲ In 2006, Yahoo! tried to buy Facebook. Mark Zuckerberg refused and became known as the "kid who refused a billion".

**Every day**  
75 million people use Facebook every day. They spend about 19 minutes on the site.

**Crazy groups**  
There are some crazy groups on Facebook:  
▶ "People who always have to spell\* their names for other people".  
▶ "I use my mobile phone to see in the dark\*".

**Other social sites**  
MySpace.com is another popular social networking\* site. Launched\* in 2003, it is more popular than Facebook in the USA where it has 75 million users (Facebook has 36 million). Friendster, another social networking site, was launched in 2002.

### Help!

<b>account:</b> compte	<b>free:</b> gratuit	<b>private:</b> privé
<b>add:</b> ajouter	<b>geek:</b> fou d'ordinateur	<b>share:</b> partager
<b>billion:</b> milliard	<b>grew (p) grow (inf):</b> grandir	<b>so:</b> alors
<b>company:</b> entreprise	<b>join:</b> adhérer	<b>spell:</b> épeler
<b>dark:</b> noir	<b>launch:</b> lancer	<b>stranger:</b> étranger
<b>delete:</b> effacer	<b>network(ing):</b> réseau	<b>student:</b> étudiant
<b>diary:</b> journal intime	<b>powerful:</b> puissant	<b>tool:</b> outil
<b>eighth:</b> huitième	<b>privacy:</b>	<b>user:</b> utilisateur
<b>even:</b> même	<b>setting:</b> paramètres de confidentialité	<b>way:</b> façon
<b>founder:</b> fondateur		<b>won (pp):</b> a gagné