

THE STORY OF SELFIES

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PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: The Story of Selfies – Reading & Comprehension

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 20–30 minutes



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
selfie	a photo you take of yourself	SEL-fee
tripod	a three-legged stand for a camera	TRY-pod
invention	something new that someone creates	in-VEN-shun
popular	liked by many people	POP-yuh-ler
dangerous	not safe, can cause harm	DANE-juh-rus

Discussion Questions

1. Do you like taking selfies? Why or why not?
2. What is the funniest or most unusual place you have taken a selfie?
3. Do you think people take too many selfies nowadays?

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Reading Passage

The Story of Selfies

Today, millions of people take selfies every day. But have you ever wondered how this popular habit started?

The very first selfie was taken in 1839 by an American man named Robert Cornelius. He set up an old camera on a tripod and took a picture of himself. That simple photo is now considered one of the earliest known selfies in history.

The word “selfie” itself is much more recent. It was first used in 2002 in Australia. Someone posted a photo of himself after falling and hurting his lip. He wrote “sorry about the bad selfie” as a joke. The word quickly became popular online. It comes from “self” + the friendly ending “-ie”.

With the invention of smartphones and front-facing cameras, taking selfies became much easier. Now people take selfies almost everywhere — with friends, while travelling, at parties, or even with their pets!

Selfies can be fun, but they can also be dangerous if people are not careful (for example, taking selfies in risky places). Many people also worry about sharing too much personal information online.

So, next time you take a selfie, remember: you are continuing a long and interesting story that started almost 200 years ago!

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

1. The first selfie was taken with a smartphone.
2. The word “selfie” was first used in Australia in 2002.
3. Robert Cornelius took the first selfie in 1839.
4. Selfies are always safe and never dangerous.

B. Multiple Choice

1. Who took one of the earliest known selfies?
   a) A queen b) Robert Cornelius c) An Australian teenager
2. Where does the word “selfie” come from?
   a) From “self” + “-ie”
   b) From “phone” + “-ie”
   c) From an old English word

C. Short Answer

1. When and where was the word “selfie” first used?
2. Why do many people enjoy taking selfies?
3. What is one danger of taking selfies?

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