My Virtual Life

Think about these questions before you read the text:

1   Do you play video games?
2   If you do play video games, what do you play?
3   Would you like to play a game when you travel to different countries?
4   Would you like to invent yourself a new personality in a game?

It is not always easy to travel to different countries. It takes a lot of money and a lot of time. Some people have found a way to travel around the world and visit different people and different countries without leaving their rooms. They use the Internet. They can visit all the cities they want.

Why do people do this? Many people enjoy creating a new **persona** because it is even more fun than playing a video game. They can invent themselves a new life and do things they will never have the chance to do in their real life or will never have the courage to do.

I walk into a beautiful Chinese house. There is a fountain and a red **curtain**. A pretty Chinese girl gives me a bowl of rice and a cup of green tea. We communicate in English because I don't speak Chinese. There is one strange thing: this house does not exist. It only exists on my computer screen. The pretty girl is an avatar – a person who exists only on the Internet. I talk to the girl by typing my message. She does not answer.

I decide to explore this new world some more. I decide to visit English-speaking cities in the world.

First, I go to a club in Los Angeles. Avatars are dancing to music. Then I go outside. I am driving in the sun and I can see the big palm trees. I decide to **surf** some more, I change countries. I see a sign for a cooking class in London. I go in. There are many avatars watching the **chef**. They are learning to make the traditional fish and chips. I leave, this is not for me. I am not hungry right now.

I decide to go to the ocean in Australia. Like I imagined, I see avatars in the opera house and a few kilometres from there, I finally see kangaroos. It seems fun but I want to explore the other places before. Maybe I will come back later.

I go to a soccer practice in Dublin. It is raining there again. I leave, I don't like this **weather**.

I stop the game for the day. I decide that next time I play, I will change my avatar. I can make my avatar be more brave, more curious. I can be a new person. In my real life, I am **shy**. I would like to change my personality. Tomorrow, I will play again and stop in Los Angeles again.

S m a r t
Words

persona = character of a person

curtain = a piece of material that covers a window

surf = navigate on the internet

chef = a person who cooks

weather = temperature

shy = timid