

INGLÉS

TEXT 2

I ask a teenage girl, "how often do you text?" "250 times a day, or something", she tells me. Shocking! The digital lives of teenagers have become the target of weekly attacks. In a recent essay for the Guardian, the novelist J. Franzen bemoaned online socialising, arguing that it was creating a uniquely shallow and trivial culture, making kids unable to socialise face to face.

As a parent of two boys at primary school, I'm not immune to worry about these issues. That trend is real. Is it turning kids into emoticon-addled zombies, unable to connect, to form a coherent thought or even make eye contact? Could this be true?

I don't think so. New technologies always provoke generational panic, which usually has more to do with adults' fears than with the lives of teenagers. In the 1930s, parents were anxious about the radio gaining "an invincible hold over their children". In the 80s, the great danger was the Sony Walkman – producing the teenager who "throbs with organic rhythms", as philosopher Allan Bloom claimed. When you look at today's digital activity, the facts are much more positive than you might expect.

Indeed, social scientists who study young people have found that their use of digital technology can be creative and even beneficial. This is true not just in terms of their social lives, but of their education too. So if you constantly use the social media, will you become unable, or unwilling, to engage in face-to-face contact? The evidence suggests not.

So what's the best way to cope? The same boring old advice that applies to everything in parenting: Moderation. It's the key to model good behaviour. Parents who stare non-stop at their phones and don't read books are likely to breed kids who will do the same. As ever, we ought to scrutinise our own behaviour.

QUESTION 3. Answer the two blocks of questions:

3.1. Block 1. Pronunciation: (1 point; 0.25 each)

- Which one of these words contains the sound "my": remains, high, away, machine?
- Which one of these words contains the sound /æ/ as in "trap": spans, days, bar, one?
- Which one of these words contains the sound /i:/ as in "sit": physical, injuries, detail, greatest?
- Write the word whose underlined letter is pronounced differently from the rest: won, following, not, potter.

3.2. Block 2. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each)

- I ask a teenage girl: "How often do you text?" "I text 250 times a day" she tells me / *I asked a teenage girl how ...and she*
- If you constantly use the social media, will you become unable, or unwilling, to engage in face-to-face contact? / *If you constantly used ...*
- In the 1930s, parents were anxious about the radio gaining "an invincible hold of their children" / *In the 1930s, parents feared ...*

QUESTION 4. Answer the two blocks of questions:

4.1. Block 1. Pronunciation: (1 point; 0.25 each)

- Which word is the plural ending pronounced /ɪz/: pencils, benches, plots, scientists?
- Which word in which the "ed" ending is pronounced /ɪd/: argued, produced, stared, intended
- Which word has the stress on the first syllable: connect, provoke, perish, control?
- In which word is the underlined letter ("a") pronounced differently: mayor, age, nature, danger?

4.2. Block 2. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each)

- His physical condition remains a mystery to those outside his personal circle / *Nobody knows...*
- Illegal driving aids were found in the car, but Benetton was not punished / *In spite of...*
- The complexity of his legacy makes him all the more interesting / *...is made...*

QUESTION 5. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS: In which part of life is it more important to be competitive, in a) studies, b) sports or c) business? Why is it especially important in that area? (Approximately 120 words) (2.5 points)

QUESTION 6. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THIS QUESTION: What are the advantages and disadvantages of social networks? (Approximately 120 words) (2.5 points)