James Gallagher, BBC Health and science correspondent

There is a common stereotype that loneliness affects the old and the isolated. It does, but what this experiment also shows is that loneliness is felt throughout life. People aged between 16 and 24 experience loneliness more and more intensely than any other age group

Neil

So according to the research, Sam, which section of society is most affected loneliness?

Sam

This might be a surprise, but it's 16 to 24 olds.

Neil

I was surprised by that like many, I would've guessed that it was older people.

Sam

The reporter did say that that was a stereotype. A stereotype is nothing do with stereo , but it's the noun we use to describe a very simple and basic judgement of someone and their character and personality based on their age, nationality, profession and so on. So a stereotype of British people is that we can't , we have bad teeth, we are very reserved and never say what we mean.

Neil

I don't know what you mean, my cooking is wonderful, Sam. And the stereotype is that old get lonely.

Sam

Much like the stereotypes of British people, this may be true in cases - I've eaten some of your home-cooked meals remember, Neil - but it's not true for the majority. It is young people who feel lonely more often and more intensely. Intensely here means strongly. The feeling of loneliness is in young people than older people.

Neil

The reporter goes on to give some explanation for young people might be more lonely.

LIVEWORKSHEETS