Linksters

Much has been said about Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers, but have you heard of the Linkster Generation? Meagan Johnson, a generational expert, speaker, and author of *From Boomers to Linksters: Managing the Friction Between Generations at Work*, defines anyone born after 2002 (and therefore post-millennial) as the Linkster generation —sometimes referred to as Generation Z.

"We chose the term Linkster Generation because it is the first generation to be linked into technology from day one. Millennials brought technology into the cultural focus and have pushed other generations to use technology. However, there are Millennials that can remember using dial up or even a life before social media," Johnson told *The Independent.*

Another aspect in which the Linkster Generation is different is family structure. The parents of Linksters will be a mixture of Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964; the main events that shaped that generation include civil rights, equal opportunity fight for women, and the sexual revolution) and Generation Xers (typically born between 1965 and 1980; main events: the availability of the pill, cable TV, and both parents working out of the home).

As workers, the Linksters will most likely be the most technologically savvy of any generation in the workforce. They will know how to navigate apps and smart phones with ease and will probably be quicker to learn and adapt to the latest technological advances, both professionally and personally.

The Linksters might also be the first generation that may not know what it is like to have just one full-time job. After all, with so many flexible work options available, the Linksters might have a mix of part-time jobs, a full-time job along with a side gig[1], or most likely, a few freelance gigs to help support themselves.

All in all, Johnson believes there is no need to criticize all members of one generation with negative connotations. Millenials have been labelled as lazy yet entitled[2], as well as "snowflakes[3]"; Generation Xers, as working hard, playing hard, being cynical, and even self-obsessed; and Baby Boomers were accused by Millennials of having ruined the economy for them. Johnson says it is good to remember that each generation has a habit of unfairly demonizing the subsequent one to theirs.

[1]**Gig:** Job. (A side gig: A less important job)

[2]**Entitled:** Feeling that you have the right to do or have what you want without having to work for it, or that you deserve it just because of who you are.

[3]**Snowflake:** An insulting way of referring to someone who is considered by some people to be too easily upset and offended.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Read the text and choose the best option (A, B, or C) for items 1.1 to 1.4. On your answer sheet, draw a table like the one below and, for each item, copy only the letter that corresponds to your answer (A, B, or C). Use CAPITAL LETTERS. 4 marks

1	2	3	4

1. According to the text, Meagan Johnson …
   a) … invented the term Linksters to refer to Generation X people.
   b) … uses the term Linksters as another way to refer to Baby Boomers.
   c) … considers that anyone born after 2002 belongs to the Linkster Generation.

2. Meagan Johnson told *The Independent* that …
   a) … Millennials have been used to technology since day one.
   b) … Linksters use technology practically since the day they are born.
   c) … Millennials live their lives without social media.

3. The parents of Linksters are …
   a) … Generation Xers.
   b) … Baby Boomers.
   c) … Baby Boomers and/or Generation Xers.

4. Linksters …
   a) … prefer to have several part-time jobs rather than one full-time job.
   b) … may never have the opportunity to find out what it means to have a single full-time job.
   c) prefer to have a main job and one or more less important jobs to support themselves.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Complete the text choosing the best option (A, B, or C) for each gap (1-15). On your answer sheet, draw a table like the one below and, for each gap (1-15), copy the letter that corresponds to your answer (A, B, or C). Use CAPITAL LETTERS. 3 marks

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Life is what is happening all around us while we wait for the thing we hope will give us ___ (1) sort of inner peace, contentment, or joy. The problem is that, when ___ (2) if that thing happens, we usually enjoy it for a few minutes only ___ (3) realizing nothing in us has fundamentally changed… So we decide that maybe it's the *next* big moment ___ (4) will finally make us truly happy. Meanwhile, we're ignoring the fact that ___ (5) woke up that morning with air in our lungs, a cup of ___ (6) coffee in our hands and laughed ___ (7) the phone with a friend. I once heard a teenage boy say: "It's Saturday night and I've got a new ___ (8) of shoes: the possibilities are endless." I thought: "Yes! Let us embrace the wonder hidden in the ordinary, because ___ (9) are the moments that are full of possibility and promise."

Sometimes it happens when we are in the middle of the daily grind: driving to work, going to the grocery store, ___ (10) class, working in a cubicle, or tucking the kids into bed at night. One of those normally ungrateful children will hug us extra-tight and whisper: "You're the ___ (11) mom ever." Or a friend texts to say, "I've been thinking of you." Or we laugh and laugh ___ (12) our insane dog is jumping on the other side of the kitchen window. When we start to ___ (13) attention, we realize life is full of small wonders that can make all of the difference in a day, hour, or lifetime. Those small moments are no ___ (14) holy than the big ones. In fact, maybe they are more holy because it is the million little pieces of our lives that really shape the people we ___ (15).

1. a) some b) -- c) the

2. a) as b) and c) but

3. a) before b) after c) when

4. a) we b) and c) that

5. a) you b) they c) we

6. a) heat b) hot c) heating

7. a) through b) by c) on

8. a) couple b) pair c) set

9. a) some b) these c) our

10. a) assisting b) attending c) attempting

11. a) best b) good c) better

12. a) unless b) although c) because

13. a) pay b) give c) borrow

14. a) more b) less c) least

15. a) become b) became c) would become

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. Finish THREE of the following sentences so that each sentence keeps the meaning of the sentence printed before it and includes a clear change of linguistic structure. COPY THE COMPLETE SENTENCES (including the beginnings already given to you) onto your answer sheet. 2 marks

4.1) Taking the bus to go to work is quicker and easier than walking or cycling.
Walking or cycling are not_____taking the bus to go to work.

4.2) 'I don't think you should go on eating so many sweets', Mary's sister said to her.

Mary's sister advised_____so many sweets

4.3) According to the newspaper, the driver of the sportscar was a drunk politician.

According to the newspaper, the sportscar_____drunk politician

4.4) We did not have a picnic because it was raining.

If_____a picnic

LIVEWORKSHEETS