

DICTIONARY: Why are young people so lonely?

Click here to listen:

Neil

Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute English, I'm Neil.

Sam

And I'm Sam.

Neil

And we are sitting here in New Broadcasting House, in the middle of London.

Sam

Oh no, not at all.

Neil

Does that mean then, do you think, that you can't be lonely here, with all these people around and all these things to do?

Sam

Ah, good question. Can you be lonely in a crowd? Yes, of course, I think you can be lonely anywhere if you feel that you are disconnected from the world around you, if you feel that no one understands you.

Neil

Well, loneliness is today's topic. The BBC has just completed a big survey about it which we will learn more about shortly. But first, of course, a question:

. Is it:

a)

b) Siwa Oasis in Egypt's Western Desert, or is it

c)

What do you think, Sam?

Sam

I've got absolutely no idea, so this is just a guess - I think it's the one in Antarctica. I'm going to go with that.

Neil

Well, we'll have the answer later on in the programme.

. But which age group suffers most from loneliness. Here is a BBC report about the research.

James Gallagher, BBC Health and science correspondent

. It does, but what this experiment also shows is that loneliness is felt throughout life. People aged between 16 and 24 experience loneliness more often and more intensely than any other age group.

Neil

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

Sam

Neil

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