

Neil

Hello. [redacted] to 6 Minute English, I'm Neil.

Sam

And I'm Sam.

Neil

And we are sitting here in New Broadcasting House, in the [redacted] of London. Would you say, Sam, that this is an **isolated** place?

Sam

Oh no, not at all. **Isolated** means far away from other [redacted] and people.

Neil

Does that [redacted] 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 [redacted]? Yes, of course, I think you can be because being lonely isn't about [redacted] **isolation**. 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 [redacted] you. If you are living happily in **isolation** in The Scottish [redacted], for example, I'm sure you could feel lonely if you came here to London.

Neil

Well, loneliness is today's topic. The BBC has just [redacted] a big survey about it which we will learn more about shortly. But first, of course, a question: Where is the most isolated inhabited place on the [redacted] - by which I mean the place furthest away from anywhere else with the fewest people living there. Is it:

- a) McMurdo [redacted] in Antarctica
- b) Siwa Oasis in Egypt's Western [redacted], or is it
- c) the island of Tristan da Cunha in the [redacted] Atlantic

[redacted], Sam?

Sam

I've got absolutely [redacted], so this is just a [redacted] - 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. Loneliness is seen as a big [redacted] for the mental [redacted] of the [redacted], so much so that the British [redacted] has a minister for loneliness. But which age group [redacted] most from loneliness. Here is a BBC report about the research.

James Gallagher, BBC Health and science correspondent

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

Neil

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

Sam

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

Neil

I was surprised by that because 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 to do with stereo , but it's the noun we use to describe a very and basic judgement of someone and their character and personality based on their , nationality, profession and so on. So a **stereotype** of British people is that we can't cook, we have bad teeth, we are very reserved and never say what we .