Teenagers Life - Better now or in the Past?



Does this situation sound familiar?

You're complaining to your parents about something. Maybe your laptop isn't powerful enough to play the latest games. Or your friends' bikes are better than yours. Then you hear ...

'When I was your age, there weren't any computers or video games. And I didn't get a bike until I was 16. And it was second-hand. And it was too big for me!'

So, is it really true that life is better for teenagers now? It's certainly true that many teenagers have got more things nowadays. A typical family is smaller now, so parents have got more money to spend on each child. And many things are cheaper than they were when our parents were children.

Technology is probably the greatest change. Forty years ago, no one could imagine a world with tiny computers, tablets and amazing smartphones. And now these things are our most essential possessions – we can't imagine living without them!

However, technology often means we spend more time at home. And often it's just us, with our computer or television. Teenagers aren't as healthy as they were in the past because they don't do enough exercise. And, although young people still get on well with their friends, some people think teenagers today aren't as sociable as they were in the past.

What do you think? How is teenage life better these days?

Comments

Luisa, Spain

Medicine is more advanced now. People live longer and enjoy healthier lives. This is good news for young people today!

Tom, UK

I asked my parents. My mum admits school work wasn't as hard as it is now. And my dad thinks life is too busy for teenagers nowadays. I agree. I'm always exhausted.

Katarina, Switzerland

Women and men are almost equal now. This is a huge change for female teenagers. Fifty years ago women couldn't vote in my country!

Marco, Italy

Cars are safer. This is good for teenagers as a lot of them are awful drivers!

Post comment

1. Read the article and the comments quickly. Which person thinks life is more difficult for teenagers now? _____.

2. Read the article and comments again. Choose the correct answers.

    1. Teenagers own more things now because.....
        a. They don't buy as many new things.
        b. Couples don't have as many children

    2. Technology.....
        a. Is very important to teenagers nowadays.
        b. Was very expensive for people to buy in the past.

3. Teenagers need to.....
   a. Do more sport
   b. Be more polite to adults

4. Luisa believes that.....
   a. Teenagers don't see their parents for as long now.
   b. People continue living until they are older now.

5. Tom's parents think that teenage life now is.....
   a. Harder than it was
   b. Easier than it was

6. Katarina feels that the situation for women now is.....
   a. Better
   b. Worse

3. Match the highlighted adjectives in the article to the meanings.

   0. Usual - typical

   1. Very bad - _____

   2. Very small - _____

   3. Very big - _____

   4. Extremely important - _____

   5. Very tired - _____