

Homework

1. Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 In the first paragraph we learn that the writer has just
 - A posted a comment about a picture.
 - B eaten a sandwich after a football match.
 - C come across an image of himself.
 - D taken and uploaded a picture online.
- 2 What does the writer want his mother to do?
 - A Think before taking a picture.
 - B Be more proud of him and his success.
 - C Remind him what he was like when younger.
 - D Have as much fun as he does at matches.
- 3 The writer is surprised by the amount of 'sharenting'
 - A because it starts when children are very young.
 - B although parents don't start until their child is five.
 - C because it makes young people feel anxious.
 - D although he's been brought up with technology.
- 4 By the age he is now, the writer had expected to
 - A be more in control of his own life.
 - B have fewer images shared by his parents.
 - C be able to remove images he doesn't like.
 - D not see any images of him from the past.

When sharing isn't such fun

Glancing down at the screen, I see that yet again my face is all over social media. This time eating a sandwich. In fact, wolfing down a sandwich as I'm starving after a football match. It's at that moment when I'm hot, sweaty and with mayonnaise all round my mouth that my mum takes a picture and posts it. Comments flood in about how I look, how greedy I must be, and even how I'm showing off. Me showing off? I wasn't ready for the picture, didn't ask for it and the last thing I wanted was for it to go online. But my mum went ahead anyway.

To be fair to her, we had in fact just won the match, so she wanted to spread the news of our success. Capturing some post-match action was in her mind just a bit of fun. And me with food round my mouth just reminded her of how cute I was as a little kid. A picture of a five-year-old relishing food is one thing, but when you're fifteen, it's not a great look. I know I should be happy that she felt proud of me, but I just wish she would pick her moments with the camera.

And it seems I'm not the only one. More and more young people are expressing anxiety at the amount their parents share about them online. There's even a word for it: 'sharenting': the constant posting by parents of content related to their children. And even for someone born into the so-called digital age, I was amazed by the facts and figures. The average child will have had a digital identity created by the age of six months, many from the day they are born. A study found that typical parents will have done 1,500 picture shares by the time their child is five. This amounts to an average number of 300 online images a year.



I have to admit I don't look at my own digital picture history if I can avoid it. The one of me on the first day of school was enough. Skinny in an oversized uniform and with a haircut that was anything but trendy. But I had reckoned on a bit less sharenting now I'm in my teens. My online space is important to me. I want to be the one in control of my digital footprint, especially as content related to me is going to be around forever. If that post-match image makes me groan now, what's it going to look like when I'm twenty-five? Or if a girlfriend sees it?

This is what gets me about the whole sharenting question. In a world where adults are telling us to respect others and think before we act, how does that fit with them taking pictures of their

kids' every move? One of my friends has her social media accounts monitored twenty-four seven by her parents, but her family posts images of her online without a second thought. She doesn't seem to mind too much, but I can't help thinking that the relationship is a little one-sided. Of course, we all need to stay safe online, but we also want some control and privacy.

It might seem strange to talk about privacy in relation to global communication, but for some teenagers the internet is their personal space, the one opportunity to be themselves away from the boundaries of school and home life. No one's asking parents to stay behind the times and pretend the digital revolution never happened. But it really is a question of consent. If I'm not happy about a picture or other content related to me, I should have my say on whether it gets uploaded or not. If family life is about respecting each other, then on behalf of teenagers everywhere, parents please, no posts without permission. (And, mum, I really hope you're reading this.)

MODALS

2. Choose the correct option.

- 1 You ought to have said sorry.
A advice for the future B criticism of the past
- 2 She can't have phoned. I haven't had any missed calls.
A I'm sure she did. B I'm sure she didn't.
- 3 You must have been delighted to get first prize.
A I'm sure you were. B I'm not sure you were.
- 4 The parcel might have got lost.
A I'm certain. B It's possible.

3. Choose the correct words.

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 We **were able to** / **could** chat for a couple of minutes.
- 2 Siblings should **have educated** / **be educated** at the same school.
- 3 We **should have been** / **should be** told the truth weeks ago.
- 4 It **can't** / **must** have been a very good party. Hardly anyone went.
- 5 I **may** / **can** have left my sweater on the school bus.

4. Re-write the sentences using the words below. Use between 3-6 words.

- 1 It was a shame that we couldn't go out at the weekend.
ABLE
It was a shame that we go out at the weekend.
- 2 I'm sure I didn't meet her at the party because I wasn't there.
MET
I her at the party because I wasn't there.
- 3 It was a waste of money to buy a new racquet because I found my old one.
HAVE
I a new racquet because I found my old one.