Digital Natives and Digital Immigrants

Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold. 2.3

They're everywhere: in coffee shops, on the train, in restaurants, at work. They'**re texting**; they'**re tweeting**; they'**re googling**; they'**re checking** social media; they'**re taking** selfies; they'**re listening** to music. And yes, they'**re** even **working**. They're always connected. These are the "digital natives."

Born at the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century, digital natives **don't know** life without technology. The first generation of digital natives **is** now **entering** the workforce and **changing** the way we work. More and more younger people **are working** from home, in coffee shops, or anyplace. They'**re bringing** their personal equipment into the workplace, too. They **switch** back and forth between their social and professional lives. They **don't see** the need to separate the two.

Some older people **are adapting** well to technology. Some people call them "digital immigrants." Others **are having** trouble. Some **are refusing** to use any new technology. Older people often **think** that technology **is growing** too fast. Look at the older people around you. **Do** they **have** smart phones? **Do** they **have** earbuds in their ears? **Are** they **texting**? Many older people **prefer** to share information with a small group of friends. Digital natives **share** information globally[1].

The younger generations **want** high-tech devices that do everything: take pictures, send texts and photos, provide music and videos, and connect them with friends around the world. What **does** the older generation **want** from technology? In many cases, Grandma and Grandpa just **want** a device that **connects** them to family and friends. They **like** to see pictures of grandchildren. Some even **love** to have a video chat with family.

As more and more technology **is entering** every aspect of our lives, the digital divide between generations **is widening**.

[1] globally: throughout the world

A digital immigrant is improving his computer skills with help from a digital native.

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COMPREHENSION Based on the reading, write T for *true* or F for *false*.

1. _____ Many digital natives are always connected.
2. _____ Digital natives separate their personal and professional lives.
3. _____ Digital immigrants usually want a device that does many things.

THINK ABOUT IT Discuss the questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Do you think being connected all the time is positive or negative? Explain.
2. Do you agree that the digital divide between generations is widening? Or are digital immigrants starting to catch up with digital natives? Explain with examples.

2.4 Contrasting the Simple Present and the Present Continuous

Form

THE SIMPLE PRESENT	THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS
Grandma **uses** email. She **doesn't use** a smart phone. **Does** she **use** the Internet? Yes, she **does**. When **does** she **use** the Internet? Why **doesn't** she **use** a smart phone?	Marc **is sending** a message. He **isn't making** a phone call. **Is** he **sending** a message to his friend? Yes, he **is**. How **is** he **sending** a message? Why **isn't** he **sending** a message to his friend?

Use

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
People **use** their phones to text. I sometimes **send** photos to my grandmother. Older people **prefer** to talk on the phone.	We use the **simple present** for: • a general truth. • a habitual activity. • a custom.
I'**m getting** a text message right now. My grandfather **is learning** about technology. Technology **is growing** quickly.	We use the **present continuous** for: • an action that is in progress now. • a longer action in progress at this general time. • a recent trend.
My grandparents **live** in a retirement home. My sister **is living** in a dorm this semester.	We use *live* in the simple present to talk about a person's home. We use *live* in the present continuous to talk about a temporary, short-term residence.
A: What does she do (for a living)? **B:** She's an English teacher. **A: What is she doing now?** **B:** She's texting her grandson.	"What does she do?" asks about a job or profession. "What is she doing?" asks about an activity now.

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EXERCISE 8 Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous form of the verb given.

1. Conversation between a grandmother and grandson:

A: You 're eating and working on your essay at the same time.
a. eat and work

B: That's not a problem, Grandma.

A: What _____ ? Is that a hamburger?
b. you/eat

B: No, it isn't. It's a veggie burger. I never _____ meat.
c. eat

A: You don't eat enough. Look at you. You're so thin.

B: I _____ to lose weight.
d. try

A: You always _____ in front of your computer. Take a break.
e. eat

I _____ soup now. When it's ready, please come to the table.
f. make

B: But I _____ on something important now.
g. work

A: How is that possible? You _____ to music, too.
h. eat and listen

B: I always _____ to music when I _____.
i. listen j. work or study

A: Whenever I _____, I _____ on my work.
k. work l. concentrate

I _____ other things at the same time.
m. not/do

B: You _____ the world of young people. We often multitask.
n. not/understand

A: You're right. I don't.

2. Conversation between two brothers:

A: _____ ? Wake up. It's almost time for class.
a. you/sleep

B: I'm so tired. I never _____ enough sleep.
b. get

A: That's because you're always on your computer or phone. How many hours _____
c. you/sleep

a night?

B: About four or five.

A: That's not enough. You _____ more sleep. Turn off your computer
d. need

and phone at night, and get some sleep.

B: I never _____ my devices. I always _____
e. turn off f. want

to know when I get a message.

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A: That's ridiculous! Let's go get breakfast. Mom _____ pancakes.
g. make

B: I _____ breakfast. I just _____ coffee.
h. not/want i. drink

A: That's not good. You _____ to live a healthier life.
j. need

3. Conversation between two friends:

A: What _____ for a living?
a. your mother/do

B: She's retired now.

A: _____ old?
b. she/be

B: No. She's only 58.

A: What _____ with her free time?
c. she/do

B: A lot of things. In fact, she _____ any free time at all.
d. not/have

She _____ a course at the art center this semester. Right now
e. take

she _____ a picture of me.
f. paint

2.5 Action and Nonaction Verbs

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
He **is texting** his friend. I **am listening** to music.	Some verbs are action verbs. These verbs express physical or mental activity.
Young people **know** a lot about technology. Many people **have** a smart phone now. **Do** you **remember** a time without cell phones?	Some verbs are nonaction verbs. These verbs express a state, condition, perception, or feeling, not an action. We do not usually use the present continuous with nonaction verbs. We use the simple present even if we are talking about now.
She**'s looking at** the text message. I want to learn about technology, but it **looks hard**. Your photo **looks like** a selfie.	Some verbs can express an action or a perception. When they express an action (for example, *look at*), they are action verbs. When they express a perception (for example, *look* + adjective or *look like*), they are nonaction verbs.
I**'m looking** at my cell phone. I **see** a text from my father. She **is listening** to music. She **hears** her favorite song.	*Look* and *listen* are action verbs. *See* and *hear* are nonaction verbs.
Grandma **is thinking about** getting an e-reader. She **thinks that** technology is a good thing.	When we think *about* or *of* something, *think* is an action verb. When *think* shows an opinion about something, it is a nonaction verb.
My grandfather **is having** a hard time with technology. He**'s having** lunch with his friends now. Grandma **has** free time now. She **has** five grandchildren. I can't visit her now. I **have** a cold.	When *have* means to experience something or to eat or drink something, it is an action verb. When *have* shows possession, relationship, or illness, it is a nonaction verb.

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