# 1 READING & SPEAKING

a Look at the questionnaire. In pairs, ask and answer the questions. Answer with *often*, *sometimes*, or *never*.

## HOW FAST IS YOUR LIFE?

1. Do people tell you that you talk too quickly?
2. Do you get impatient when other people are talking?
3. Are you the first person to finish at mealtimes?
4. When you are walking along a street, do you feel frustrated when you are behind people who are walking more slowly?
5. Do you get irritable if you sit for an hour without doing anything, e.g. waiting for the doctor?
6. Do you walk out of shops and restaurants if there is a queue?

**5A HOW FAST IS YOUR LIFE?** Students A+B

Calculate your partner's score and tell him or her. Then read to see what your score means. Do you agree?

***How to score:***
1 point for ***never*** 2 points for ***sometimes*** 3 points for ***often***

**Is your score between *6 and 9*?** You are living life in the slow lane. Compared to most people, you take things easy and don't get stressed by modern-day living. You are patient, relaxed, and easy-going. Most of the time this is good news, but sometimes it can be a problem. For example, are you sometimes late for appointments?

**Is your score between *10 and 14*?** You have a medium pace of life. You are probably somebody who can change the speed at which you live depending on the situation.

**Is your score between *15 and 18*?** You are living life in the fast lane, rushing around and trying to do many different activities and projects at the same time. You are impatient and you find it difficult to relax. You are probably very productive, but your relationships and health could suffer as a result.

*Adapted from Richard Wiseman's Quirkology website*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

c Read the article. What is the main reason why life is faster today?

# I WANT IT, AND I WANT IT NOW! Why are we so impatient?

*Tuesday 22 Oct 6:00 am*

**Whatever happened to patience?**

We don't like waiting for things anymore. With faster broadband, instant searches, and immediate downloads, we expect things to happen immediately, and if they don't we get impatient.

Fast food restaurants have changed the way we eat. The growth of mobile phone apps like Tinder has changed the way we meet new people. We don't need to wait a week to see the next episode of a TV series – we can download it on Netflix. We are even walking 10% faster than 20 years ago, and talking more quickly. Everything is getting faster, but is it getting better? That depends on how fast you like to live.



More than **125m** Google searches are made every hour.



**50%** of users leave a web page that doesn't load in ten seconds. Three out of five people don't return to that site.



**1/3** of British people expect a 'like' on a Facebook picture in less than a minute after posting it.

The average British person is only prepared to wait **4** minutes to get a drink in a bar...

...and **6** minutes for a bus.



**British people's most hated time-wasting activities are (in order):**

1 waiting to be connected on the phone
2 waiting for a replacement credit card
3 waiting for a shopping delivery
4 waiting for a delayed flight
5 being stuck in traffic

*Adapted from the British press*

***d.* In *two minutes* find the answers to questions 1 to 8 in the article.**

1 How do we feel when things don't happen immediately?

2 What has changed the way we meet people?

3 How much faster are we walking than in the past?

4 How many Google searches are made every hour?

5 How many people leave a webpage if it takes more than ten seconds to load?

6 What do some Facebook users expect to get less than a minute after posting a picture?

7 How long are British people prepared to wait for a bus?

8 Which activity do they find more annoying: waiting for a replacement credit card or for a shopping delivery?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

***e.* Find six technology words in the article.**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

***f.* Answer these questions**

1. Do you think these statistics are true in Mexico?

2. Which of the ‘time-wasting’ activities annoys you the most? Why?

3. Do you think it’s a good thing that life is getting faster? Why or why not?

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