CHECK YOUR ANSWERS! COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

Read the following academic-style text. Some compound adjectives you provided are not accurate. Replace them with the best alternatives from the box on the right side of the page:

Recent studies in psychology suggest that modern society is increasingly influenced by **high-selfness** behaviors, where individuals prioritize their own needs above group welfare.

At the same time, researchers warn about the risks of becoming **unplugged-averse**. People who cannot disconnect from their devices often report higher stress levels and difficulty concentrating.

Social media platforms also encourage **attention-seeking** patterns, rewarding users for posting photos or opinions that gain immediate approval.

Leaders in professional environments may become **ego-driven**, focusing more on personal recognition than collective progress.

On the other hand, certain **well-cautious** approaches, such as strict digital hygiene, can help reduce exposure to harmful content.

Finally, experts emphasize that while **high-achieving** individuals often thrive in competitive settings, being **grind-obsessed** can lead to burnout and mental health issues.

- over-cautious _____
- self-centered _____
- tech-dependent _____

Complete with the compund adjective you consider correct in each context:

1. *"Don't you think Lucas is a bit _____? He only talks about himself."*
2. *"My brother is completely _____. If the Wi-Fi goes down, he doesn't know what to do."*
3. *"He's _____ about germs—he cleans his hands every five minutes."*

Think of examples of your own using these:

self-absorbed // phone-obsessed // conflict-averse // well-prepared // always-on // shock-focused

Let's take the incorrect compound adjectives from the text, explain why they don't work, and then provide better alternatives.

1. **High-selfness:** "Selfness" is not a recognized English word. Compounds usually combine an adjective + noun, but the base noun must exist (self-esteem, selfishness). "Selfness" is already modified. Better alternatives: **self-centered, self-absorbed, ego-driven.**
2. **. Unplugged-averse:** The prefix unplugged is typically used in music (an unplugged concert), not in reference to digital habits. Also, "averse" usually attaches to nouns (risk-averse, conflict-averse), not participles like unplugged. Better alternatives: **tech-dependent, screen-focused, phone-obsessed.**
3. **Well-cautious:** The prefix well- is used for positive states (well-prepared, well-educated), but cautious is not intensified with well- in English. Instead, we use "over-" for excess (over-cautious). Better alternative: **over-cautious.**