

READING COMPREHENSION

Tony Anderson is 15 and, like most people his age, he spends a lot of time on his computer and smartphone, but his parents aren't complaining. In fact, they're pleased. This is because Tony was born **deaf**, but now, thanks to technology and social media, his life has completely changed. Some young deaf people **attend** the same schools as other children, but in the past some found it difficult to make friends. A lot of deaf people could only communicate using sign language, and so their classmates couldn't talk to them. And if you can't communicate, it's difficult to **take part** in social activities with other teenagers. So some deaf teenagers felt **isolated** and bored, didn't have a social life, and often suffered from low self-esteem.



Then along came the technological revolution, with computers, the Internet and mobile phones. Teenagers began to communicate more and more by text message and go on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For deaf teenagers, the Internet is an ideal way to communicate, because you don't need to hear or speak. More importantly, everyone uses it, not just deaf people. As Tony explains, 'Now, if you're a deaf teenager, no one will know you're different. It's incredible! I can post on chat forums or social networks and the other people don't know I'm deaf, so they **treat** me like everyone else. It's made me a lot more relaxed and confident.'

The other thing Tony enjoys is being able to connect up with other teenagers who are deaf. 'We've all had similar experiences in life, so we understand each other. I've made some good friends online, and we often **meet up**, too. The Internet has made a big difference to my life and to the lives of many other deaf people!'

Words in bold: Palabras en negrita

★★ DICTIONARY WORK. Check the meaning of the words in **bold** in the text. Then use them to complete the sentences.

- 1 Let's _____ tomorrow morning and go to the comic exhibition.
- 2 Would you like to _____ in an experiment?
- 3 Mark was ill when he was a baby and now he is _____ in one ear.
- 4 You mustn't _____ your brother like that! Be nice to him.
- 5 How many people usually _____ the communication course?
- 6 We lived in a remote place and I felt very _____.

Read the text again and write YES next to the correct answer

Why are Tony's parents pleased he often uses his computer?

- a Because it's something a typical teenager does.
- b Because he spends less time with his friends.
- c Because he can learn sign language.

- 2 Why were deaf teenagers often unhappy before the Internet?
 - a Schools didn't know how to teach them.
 - b Their classmates treated them differently.
 - c It was difficult to communicate with others.
- 3 How did technology change how teenagers communicated?
 - a They started using the written word more.
 - b They didn't talk with their friends face-to-face anymore.
 - c They only spoke by phone.
- 4 Why is technology so important for Tony?
 - a It means he's like other teenagers.
 - b He's good at it because he's deaf.
 - c He can explain to people that he's deaf.
- 5 What is not true about Tony's life nowadays?
 - a He has a social life.
 - b He doesn't know any other deaf teenagers.
 - c He feels better about himself.