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## Technology Fights Loneliness

What can older people do to stop feeling lonely?

Like many seniors around the world, 80-year-old Deanna Dezern, is self-isolating during the COVID-19 crisis. Self-isolating can make people feel lonely - but Dezern feels fine. Dezern has a new companion - *ElliQ*. ElliQ is a small, robot made specifically for seniors. It can do many things - answer questions, tell jokes, and manage Dezern's schedule. Research shows that loneliness is bad for us. It can cause serious health problems, such as heart disease. And feelings of loneliness have gone up because of the lack of socializing during the crisis. Now, ElliQ and other types of technology are helping seniors fight loneliness.

Having less freedom to go outside or move around makes seniors feel extra lonely. But VR (virtual reality) technology can help them "travel" to other places. *Rendever* is a company that makes VR headsets for seniors. With the headset, seniors can visit many places in the world, including the French countryside, or Yosemite National Park.

Many seniors find computers and other devices difficult to use. *KOMP*, a one-button computer, solves that problem. All seniors need to do is turn it on. Then, family and friends can send messages and photos. They can also start video chats. It all appears instantly on KOMP's screen.

*Ageless Innovation* has special pets just for seniors. The cats purr and the dogs wag their tails. But they're not real: they're robots! The robot pets react to voices and touch. Researchers at Florida Atlantic University say these pets make seniors feel less lonely. And there's no mess to clean up!

Hopefully, companies will continue to design products to help seniors live longer, happier and less lonely lives.

### • QUESTION

- 1- Deanna Dezern is a...
- a- Researcher
  - b- Person with heart disease
  - c- Senior who has a robot
  - d- Woman who creates technology for senior

- 2- What can you do with render?
- a- Video chat
  - b- Tell jokes
  - c- "travell" outside your home
  - d- All of the above
- 3- According to the article, KOMP is easy for seniors to use because it.....
- a- Has a very large screen
  - b- Turns on and off by itself
  - c- Only has one button
  - d- Works when seniors speak to it
- 4- ELLIQ makes robot pets for seniors
- a- True
  - b- False
  - c- We don't know
- 5- Which company's product did researchers at Florida Atlantic University test?
- a- ELLIQ
  - b- Render
  - c- KOMP
  - d- Ageless innovation

## Glosary

- **Fights loneliness**



- That's how you fight loneliness

- Senior



- **Self-isolating**
- Separation from a person, a population, or a thing



- **Companion**
- Entity in which capital and work intervene as factors of production of industrial or commercial activities or for the provision of services.



- **Lack of socializing**
- Communication is the way of establishing contact between two people, that is, a sender who broadcasts a message to a receiver through a channel



- **Freedom**
- Status or condition of the person who is free



- **VR heatsets**

- Virtual Reality (VR) is an environment of scenes and objects of real appearance - generated by computer technology



- **Instantly**
- The songs are instantly recognisable



- **React**
- Reaction refers to the action that is generated as a result of a stimulus

