

**Topic:** Do you speak IM

**Activity:** Reading B1 level.

Young people have always liked having their own language. Each generation has its own slang words, and they change faster than most adults can keep up with. That's the point of slang, according to experts who study language and communication to the young people themselves. "You don't want your parents or teachers understanding everything you say", says one 15-year-old. "We need our own space, too."

But nowadays it's not a matter of just a few new words, there is a whole language developing. Its happening online, and it's happening at lightning speed. It is the language of Instant message, or IM also used in text messaging, for young people, it is a fun and creating way to converse. And the cool thing for them is, most adults can't understand it.

"Young people have always been secretive" says one communication expert. "It is used to be passing notes under the desk in class. It is a way of keeping in touch and keeping adults in the dark."

There isn't only one IM language either. Young people in every country have developed their own lingo, mainly based on sounds, for example, the Spanish question word ¿Qué? becomes K? in IM languages, in French A+ (is not a good grade), it's a good grade, it's the equivalent if L&R (later). In Japan, teenage girls have created an entire language called Gal go. It is a combination of different types of Japanese characters, and even boys of their generation find it impossible to figure out.

The good news is that the preoccupation with IM. and with secrecy - does not last forever. By the time they enter college, most young people are using simpler version of IM language, with just a few common abbreviations everyone knows. By that time, IM is just a practical way to keep in touch with friends and colleagues, not a way to keep secrets from the older generation.

**Read the text again and choose the correct answer.**

1. According to the writer each generation of young people....

- A. uses the same slang words their parents did.
- B. has its own slang vocabulary.
- C. wants the older generation to understand them.

2. The 15 years old suggest that young people...

- A. want their own rooms.
- B. don't like talking to teachers.
- C. Need privacy
- D. don't understand parents or teacher.

3. According to the article, what is true about IM language?

- A. It's developing quickly.
- B. It is developing slowly.
- C. It is being learned by adults.
- D. It is easy to learn.

4. The writer says that IM language...

- A. is the same all over the world.
- B. is used more often by girls.
- C. is simpler than Japanese.
- D. differs depending on the country it's used in.

5. The word "lingo" happens by the time young people enter college?

- A. Language
- B. alphabet
- C. Message.
- D. Instant Messaging device.

6. What usually happens by the time young people enter to college...

- A. They forget how to use IM.
- B. They use a less complicated form of IM language.
- C. They use a more complicated form of IM language.
- D. They lose interest in keeping in touch.