

End of the year test A2

Digital habits across generations

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. In the UK the over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55–64 and 2.9 million over-65s.

Sheila, aged 59, says, 'I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. It's a much better way to see what they're doing than waiting for letters and photos in the post. That's how we did it when I was a child, but I think I'm lucky I get to see so much more of their lives than my grandparents did.'

Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 in the UK are leaving the site – only 2.2 million users are under 17 – but they're not going far from their smartphones. Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. 'It's my alarm clock so I have to,' she says. 'I look at it before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up.'

Unlike her grandmother's generation, Chloe's age group is spending so much time on their phones at home that they are missing out on spending time with their friends in real life. Sheila, on the other hand, has made contact with old friends from school she hasn't heard from in forty years. 'We use Facebook to arrange to meet all over the country,' she says. 'It's changed my social life completely.'

Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly. 'I was always connected and I felt like I was always working,' he says. 'How could I tell my kids to get off their phones if I was always in front of a screen myself?' So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. 'I'm not completely cut off from the world in case of emergencies, but the important

thing is I'm setting a better example to my kids and spending more quality time with them.'

Is it only a matter of time until the generation above and below Peter catches up with the new trend for a less digital life?

Are the sentences true or false?

1. More people aged 55 or more use Facebook than people aged 65 or more.
2. Grandparents typically use Facebook less than their grandchildren.
3. Sheila feels grateful to social media.
4. Peter found his own smartphone use affected how he felt about how much his children used their phones.
5. Peter has changed how much he uses his phone during the working day.
6. Peter feels that the changes make him a better parent.

Listening

Listen to five people talking about five different things. Answer the questions with the number of the speaker. Who...?

Spends the same time on something as before, but divides his/her time differently

Spends more time doing something online

Spends less time on something because of not living in the city now

Spends more time on something because it's good for him/her

Spends more time on something because of living with his/her partner

Grammar - Conditionals

Choose the correct form for each gap below to make either the first or the second conditional.

- 1) If you would be / will be / are free tonight, we might go out for a drink, or to the cinema.
- 2) He is / will be / would be depressed if he fails the exam.
- 3) If I didn't know you, I will think / would think / thought you were crazy.
- 4) Tell me the truth if you can / could / will
- 5) If you had a bigger salary, you buy / will buy / would buy more unnecessary things.
- 6) If it won't be / weren't / isn't for Tom, I wouldn't be here.
- 7) You should call me if you see / will see / saw anything unusual.
- 8) If they had this player, they won't lose / didn't lose / wouldn't lose a single match.
- 9) Our lives would be much easier if you work / worked / would work closer to home.
- 10) If I got a job in France, we ate / will eat / would eat crêpes every day.

Grammar - Modals of obligation and necessity

Match the sentence halves.

1. We have a lot of work tomorrow.
2. You mustn't tell anyone what I've just told you.
3. John is a millionaire.
4. We don't have to rush.
5. We mustn't miss the train,
6. You should stop smoking.

- a. It's harmful for your health!
- b. He doesn't have to go to work.
- c. You mustn't be late.
- d. It's a secret.
- e. We've got plenty of time.
- f. because it's the last one tonight.

Grammar - Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Fill in the present perfect simple or the past simple.

- 1. I _____ a great film yesterday. (see)
- 2. _____ a cheap laptop? (you ever buy)
- 3. Sue _____ the flu last winter. (have)
- 4. They _____ bingo on Wednesday afternoon. (play)
- 5. He _____ the bus to get there. (already take)
- 6. Last week my rabbit _____ away. (run)
- 7. We _____ a lot last Sunday. (do)
- 8. _____ in India? (she ever be)
- 9. I _____ him last Monday. (meet)
- 10. She _____ yet. (not wake up)