

EXERCISE 5

Read a report about how people keep in touch with their friends and family. Then complete the exercise.

A These days, just as in the past, it is important for people to stay in contact with each other. Nowadays, however, more young people are travelling to other countries to go on holiday or to work or study and, of course, they want to keep in contact with their friends and family. In this study, we spoke to three different groups of people. The first group was aged 18–24, the second group was aged 25–39 and the third group was aged 40–60. We asked the three age groups how they prefer to stay in contact with people. We asked if they preferred to write letters, talk on the telephone, use email, send messages on social networks or make video calls.

B The study showed that people in all three groups preferred to use the internet to stay in contact with their friends and families. 70% of the 18–24 age group preferred to use text messages to contact their friends and family, and 65% preferred to make video calls. Similarly, 68% of the 25–39 age group preferred to send messages on social media and 62% preferred to send email. For the 40–60 age group, 72% preferred to send email, and 58% sent messages on social media. For many people the internet makes keeping in contact much quicker and easier. It is also popular because it is even possible to see the person you are talking to on a video call and to share photos and video files in just a few seconds.

C The study also showed that making telephone calls and writing letters were less popular with all age groups. Only 32% of all of the people in the study preferred to make telephone calls and only 16% preferred to write letters. There are several possible reasons why telephone calls and letters are less popular today than they were in the past. Firstly, letters can take a long time to arrive, especially if you send them from abroad. Many people want to communicate with their friends and family much more quickly than this. Secondly, telephone calls can be expensive, especially if you make them to someone in another country.

D In conclusion, the study showed that people of all ages prefer to use the internet or their smartphones to keep in contact with their friends and families. Younger people prefer to send messages using social networks, while older people prefer to use email. In contrast making telephone calls and writing letters are now less popular for all age groups. In the future, it is likely that people will continue to keep in contact with each other online.

Match the information to the correct paragraph. Read the report on the first screen again to help you.

1. Which paragraph gives a number for the least popular way to stay in contact?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

2. Which paragraph gives reasons why the internet is popular with all ages?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

3. Which paragraph sums up the main ideas in the study?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

4. Which paragraph introduces the people in the study?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

5. Which paragraph talks about the most popular way for the youngest age group to stay in contact?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

6. Which paragraph talks about the different questions that the study asked people?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C

- ☐ D

7. Which paragraph talks about how people will stay in contact in the future?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

8. Which paragraph gives reasons why letters and phone calls are now less popular?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D