

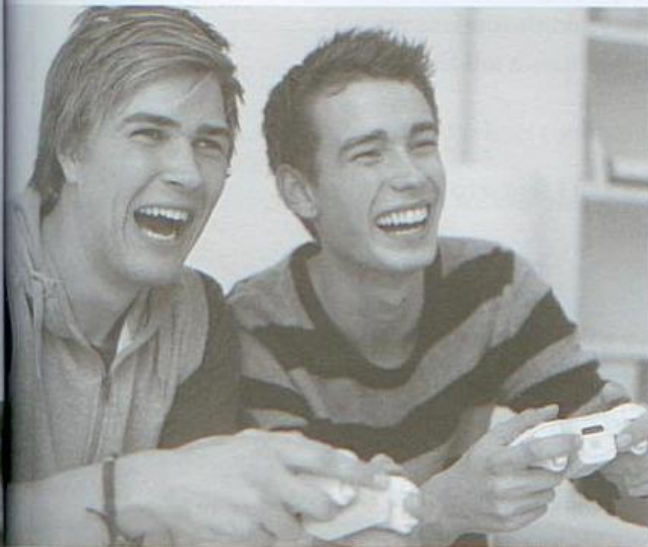


Time to Spare

Reading

Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Free time for teens



The way teenagers spend their free time changes from generation to generation. Playing sport, going out with friends, going to the cinema, listening to music and watching TV – all of these activities continue to be enjoyed by today's teens as they were by their parents.

1 Let's have a look at the statistics.

How much time do you spend online? A British research group found out that the average UK teenager spends an incredible 31 hours a week online – that's nearly 4.5 hours per day! 2 The usual things – instant messaging with friends, watching videos on *YouTube*, finding out about health and beauty, and reading about celebrities and sports. To their parents, it must seem like they're just wasting their time. Fortunately, they're also spending three hours a week doing research for school projects and homework.

American teenagers, on the other hand, spend most of their free time in front of the television.

3 In fact, the study found that the amount of television watched by the typical American teenager has increased in the past five years to 3 hours and 20 minutes a day. Many people thought that the availability of computers and the Internet at home would cause American teens to reduce their TV viewing time, but this hasn't happened. Internet time was found to be 2 hours and 20 minutes a day and most of that time is spent on social networking sites, such as *Facebook*.

So, UK teens are to be found online while US teens are sitting in front of the TV. 4 How do they spend their free time? A study into their habits has shown that when it comes to free time, boys prefer watching TV and playing electronic games, while girls spend more time studying and surfing the Net.

The results show a generation that is more traditional than some might expect. European teenagers still spend more time watching television than they spend online – 10.3 hours a week, on average, compared to 9.1 hours spent on the Internet. But video games, at 11.7 hours per week, now consume even more time than TV for European teens. 5 Nearly 50% listen to music on their PC, while 45% watch TV online, for example.

Understandably, such statistics are causing concern among parents, doctors and teachers around the world. They believe that teenagers need to be more physically active in order to stay strong and healthy, and to be able to cope with the demands of school. A life spent in front of a screen is not the way to health and happiness!

- A The popularity of video games is an important factor.
- B What about teenagers from mainland Europe?
- C And what does the average British teen do online?
- D It was also discovered that European teens like doing something else while online.
- E A US study found that teenagers spent more time with traditional media such as television and radio than had been expected.
- F But there are new interests that are taking up much of their time – the activities associated with electronic media.