

Task 1. Fill in the gaps in sentences with the words in the box, to emphasise the phrases in bold.

even	absolutely	just	huge	themselves	does
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1. A lot of people seem to blame _____ **everything** that goes wrong ...
2. ... a _____ **amount** of our school homework ...
3. ... perhaps **they** should communicate more _____ !
4. ... we **don't** _____ **eat together** ...
5. ... we _____ **eat** fast food in front of the TV ...
6. Time _____ **move on** ...

B

SALLY PORTER



A lot of people seem to blame absolutely everything that goes wrong on the media, as Teresa Orange and Louise O'Flynn do. And yet a huge amount of our school homework requires us to use the Internet for research. We learn a lot from television, and you can too, if you are selective. Computer games are supposed to be good for developing your brain. And some of my best discussions with friends have been about computer games or television programmes.

If parents want children to improve their communication skills, perhaps they should communicate more themselves! My own parents are so busy these days that more often than not we don't even eat together as a family - we just eat fast food in front of the TV, often in separate rooms. Not much chance of a conversation there!

Another reason why so many younger people don't communicate very well is perhaps because schools don't attach enough importance to speaking and listening. From a very early age, probably because of exam pressure, kids are made to focus on reading and writing.

Time does move on and technology isn't going to just go away. Perhaps parents and schools should move on too, and appreciate modern media, while at the same time finding the time to have proper conversations with their children!

Like Reply 5m

Task 2. Work with your partner. Brainstorm and write in the table a minimum of 3 arguments for and 3 against the idea.

Topic: Should all education be free?

Arguments for free education	Arguments against free education
1. ...	1. ...

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Task 3. Write your comment using your notes from Task 2. Use the checklist to check yourself.

- ☐ I have 3-4 paragraphs
- ☐ I used at least 2 emphatic phrases (from Task 1)
- ☐ I used some of the ideas from Task 2

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