

## HOW FAST IS YOUR LIFE?

1. Do people tell you that you talk too quickly?
2. Do you get impatient when other people are talking?
3. Are you the first person to finish at mealtimes?
4. When you're walking down the street, do you get frustrated when you go behind people who walk more slowly than you?
5. Do you get irritable if you have to sit for an hour with nothing to do e.g. waiting for the doctor?
6. Do you go away from places if there is a long queue of people waiting?

What's your score?

### **How to score:**

1 point for **never** 2 points for **sometimes** 3 points for **often**

**Is your score between 6 and 9?** You are living life in the slow lane. Compared to most people, you take things easy and don't get stressed by modern-day living. You are patient, relaxed, and easy-going. Most of the time this is good news, but sometimes it can be a problem. For example, are you sometimes late for appointments?

**Is your score between 10 and 14?** You have a medium pace of life. You are probably somebody who can change the speed at which you live depending on the situation.

**Is your score between 15 and 18?** You are living life in the fast lane, rushing around and trying to do many different activities and projects at the same time. You are impatient and you find it difficult to relax. You are probably very productive, but your relationships and health could suffer as a result.

## READING:

### I WANT IT AND I WANT IT NOW! Why are we so impatient?

#### Whatever happened to patience?

We don't like waiting for things anymore. With faster broadband, instant searches, and immediate downloads, we expect things to happen immediately, and if they don't we get impatient.

Fast food restaurants have changed the way we eat. The growth of mobile phone apps like Tinder has changed the way we meet new people. We don't need to wait a week to see the next episode of a TV series – we can download it on Netflix. We are even walking 10% faster than 20 years ago, and talking more quickly. Everything is getting faster, but is it getting better? That depends on how fast you like to live.



More than  
**125m**  
Google searches are  
made every hour.



**1/3**

of British people expect a 'like' on a Facebook picture in less than a minute after posting it.



**50%**

of users leave a web page that doesn't load in ten seconds. Three out of five people don't return to that site.

The average British person is only prepared to wait

**4**

minutes to get a drink in a bar...

...and

**6**

minutes for a bus.



#### British people's most hated time-wasting activities are (in order):

- 1 waiting to be connected on the phone
- 2 waiting for a replacement credit card
- 3 waiting for a shopping delivery
- 4 waiting for a delayed flight
- 5 being stuck in traffic

Find the answer to these questions on the reading text

1. How do you feel when things don't happen immediately?
2. What has changed the way we meet people?
3. How much faster are we walking than in the past?
4. How many Google searches are made every hour?
5. How many people decide not to go back to a webpage if it takes more than ten seconds to load?
6. What do some Facebook users expect to get less than a minute after posting a picture?
7. How long are British people prepared to wait for a bus?
8. Which activity do they find more annoying, waiting for a replacement credit card or for a shopping delivery?

Answer this: Do you think it is a good thing that life is getting faster? Why or why not?