

24/12/2010

**READING COMPREHENSION:**

Being a teenager involves a constant dialogue about freedom, and seeking your own place in the world distinct from your parents. It is not hard to see the appeal of the mobile phone in this context, allowing young people to connect independently. It frees them from the constraints of fixed landline telephone, allowing conversations to be held at home in bedrooms away from parents and siblings' ears, and also, of course, outside the home.

The mobile phone has also given them a communication tool that they can call their own, rather than a shared landline phone tying them to the living room or the hallway. Moreover, the mobile phone offers the freedom of fluid access to the social network.

One of the most striking consequences of this new-found freedom among young people is the instant and near-constant communication between them. This connectivity and freedom is essentially perceived as a good thing since it is empowering young people to call and text.

But constant communication raises potential problems too. Young people have become so accustomed to it that if they do not receive calls or texts, they feel a sense of rejection. They may even feel lost without one because they have a degree of independence on it. The ability to test decisions against peer group opinion, seeking constant reassurance, could also inhibit young people's willingness to make decisions for themselves. Moreover, the mobile phone may combine with other trends in society to make the peer group even more influential. In Britain, parents are working longer hours, making the peer group relatively more influential and powerful.

The last decade has seen a huge rise in the amount of asynchronous communication through texts and e-mail. Young people can thus avoid some of the pressure of face-to-face communication by 'texting' each other. Besides, mobile phone users can also usually see the phone numbers for incoming calls, and choose to ignore them more easily. This may make life easier, but also presents moral dilemmas. There are far more temptations to mislead, or to overlook certain communications. According to a report, more than a third of young people sometimes dodge calls from parents. This is a freedom of a sort, but doubtless a frustrating one for parents.

**A – Say whether the following statements are true or false. Justify (3pts)**

- 1- The mobile is a communication tool that can be shared by family members.  
.....
- 2- The mobile impedes independent decision making.  
.....
- 3- Some youngsters do not like to communicate with their family members.  
.....

**B- Answer the following questions based on the text: (4pts)**

- 1- What benefits does the mobile offer to a teenager?  
.....
- 2- What is wrong with constant communication?  
.....
- 3- Why is there an increase in the amount of asynchronous communication?  
.....
- 4- What message does the writer want to convey to the reader?  
.....

**C- Give a suitable title to the text: (1pt).....**

**D- Find in the text words that are similar to: (4pts)**

- 1- Different (paragraph 1):.....; 3- enormous (par5):.....
- 2- Avoid (parg6):..... ; 4- looking for (parg4):.....

**LANGUAGE:**

**A- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets(6p**

- 1- Do you promise that you..... (teach) me to play the guitar?
- 2- ..... (you/find) the house of your dreams yesterday?
- 3- At the moment, I .....(write) a letter to support DJ Cat B.
- 4- When I saw Peter, he .....(talk) to the estate agent about his flat.
- 5- My sister .....(be/rarely) at home on Saturday afternoons.
- 6- I'll be very happy when we .....(move) from this damp flat.

**B- Complete the sentences with the correct preposition: (6pts)**

- 1- Parents queued.....for hours to see the fashion designer's new clothes.
- 2- Parents always worry .....what jobs their children are going to do.
- 3- I am looking forward .....seeing that new play at the theatre.
- 4- If something goes wrong with their spacecrafts, astronauts are .....trouble.
- 5- A doctor will tell you what food is good.....you.
- 6- The chance of a good role in the play came to me out .....the blue.

**C- Read the paragraph. For questions 1-6 choose the answer, a, b, or c.(6pts**

What is the best way to protect children from listening to songs that are not (1) .....for them? One wonders if the answer is to (2)..... them, but surely it is better for parents to talk to their children about such things. Many rappers do not mind if they (3)..... anyone and young people like their music because they (4).....about poverty and other social problems. Their songs are about all kinds of subjects, including violence and crime, and their lyrics are (5)..... . Kids will usually find a way of doing what they want, and it's almost impossible to (6).....them from listening to what they want to.

- |                  |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1- a responsible | b fabulous  | c suitable  |
| 2- a upset       | b sign      | c ban       |
| 3- a offend      | b attract   | c censor    |
| 4- a turn down   | b point out | c speak out |
| 5- a explicit    | b brave     | c elegant   |
| 6- a struggle    | b prevent   | c return    |

**WRITING (10points)**

Write an essay about the advantages and disadvantages of modern clothes compared with the clothes your parents used to wear when they were your age. (80-100 words).