

Kids & Technology



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. How young is too young for a child to have access to a mobile device?
2. Why are some experts concerned about the use of technology by young children?
3. What are some positive aspects of children using technology?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. tablet | a) a person in the same age or status group |
| ___ 2. keep someone company | b) the condition of having excess body weight |
| ___ 3. Generation Y | c) the group of people born just before the new millennium |
| ___ 4. caution | d) to prevent someone from feeling lonely |
| ___ 5. obesity | e) short for "application," a special program (often for a mobile device) |
| ___ 6. peer | f) observance or guidance to keep someone safe or on task |
| ___ 7. happy medium | g) available instantly |
| ___ 8. supervision | h) a healthy balance |
| ___ 9. app | i) a mobile computer that has a touch screen |
| ___ 10. at one's fingertips | j) to warn about dangers |

Reading

KIDS & TECHNOLOGY

What will become of the iGeneration?

1. Children and teens who are growing up with mobile devices in their homes are now being referred to as the iGeneration. Some babies learn how to use **tablets** and smartphones before the age of two! Instead of a toy or a book, parents pass their young ones a mobile device to **keep them company** on road trips and strolls.
2. How long is too long for a child to be engaged on a mobile device? Literacy experts believe that screens have *no* place with babies and toddlers. Even before smartphones and tablets, these experts **cautioned** parents of **Generation Y** kids to limit the time in front of television screens and video game consoles. Many teachers agree that screen time should be restricted until a child can speak and read fluently.
3. Health experts also have concerns about kids and technology. Studies suggest that screen time can change the development of the brain. Doctors also complain that overuse of technology contributes to **obesity**. Social skills may also suffer if kids aren't encouraged to go outside and play with their **peers**. Now that technology can be accessed on the go, the amount of time children spend using technology is higher than ever.
4. Technology advocates believe there is such thing as a **happy medium**. They argue that young children *should* have access to technology under adult **supervision**. They also believe that the Internet is a wealth of information, and that **apps** can be fun and educational. How often are children with mobile devices being closely supervised?
5. Many children today have never experienced life without being constantly connected. They are accustomed to having information **at their fingertips**. How will this generation's dependency on technology change the human race?

“Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master.”

—Christian Lous Lange, politician

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What does the iGeneration refer to?
2. According to the reading, what is replacing books and toys for babies and toddlers who are on the go?
3. What were literacy experts worried about before mobile devices?
4. What concerns do health professionals have about kids and technology?
5. How is life different for children who were born in the iGeneration compared to those born before mobile technology became the norm?

Vocabulary Review

Create seven words or expressions by pairing the words that are commonly found together in English. Then write a sentence for each example.

Word List:

- adult
- app
- at her
- childhood
- company
- educational
- fingertips
- Generation
- happy
- keep me
- medium
- obesity
- supervision
- Y

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Cyberspeak

When chatting on mobile devices and computers, kids sometimes use abbreviations that their parents don't know. You probably know that LOL means "laughing out loud" and OMG means "Oh my God." Try to guess what these other short forms mean. Add some other short forms that you and your friends use.

Abbreviation	Meaning
BRB	
GTG	
POS or P911	
LMIRL	
W/E	
ASL	
ROFL	

Discussion

1. If children and youth are allowed to have a social media presence, should parents trust their kids or keep a close eye on them?
2. How young is too young to own a cell phone? Are elementary school children safer with or without one?
3. Are teachers knowledgeable enough to explain the dangers of Internet predators? Is this the responsibility of parents?
4. Will or do you allow your own toddlers to have access to mobile devices? Why or why not?

Critical Thinking

Work with a partner and discuss this question.

An Ohio teen killed his mother when she took away a video game that he was obsessed with. Do parents need to be more careful about how they restrict technology?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

KIDS & TECHNOLOGY

What will become of the iGeneration?

1. Children and teens who are growing up with mobile devices in their homes are now being referred to as the iGeneration. Some babies learn how to use _____ and smartphones before the age of two! Instead of a toy or a book, parents pass their young ones a mobile device to _____ on road trips and strolls.
2. How long is too long for a child to be engaged on a mobile device? Literacy experts believe that screens have *no* place with babies and toddlers. Even before smartphones and tablets, these experts _____ parents of _____ kids to limit the time in front of television screens and video game consoles. Many teachers agree that screen time should be restricted until a child can speak and read fluently.
3. Health experts also have concerns about kids and technology. Studies suggest that screen time can change the development of the brain. Doctors also complain that overuse of technology contributes to _____. Social skills may also suffer if kids aren't encouraged to go outside and play with their _____. Now that technology can be accessed on the go, the amount of time children spend using technology is higher than ever.
4. Technology advocates believe there is such thing as a _____. They argue that young children *should* have access to technology under adult supervision. They also believe that the Internet is a wealth of information, and that _____ can be fun and educational. How often are children with mobile devices being closely supervised?
5. Many children today have never experienced life without being constantly connected. They are accustomed to having information _____. How will this generation's dependency on _____ change the human race?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about kids and technology. They discuss how life has changed for the iGeneration, and what impact this will have on the human race. Chat abbreviations are shared.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, technology, kids, youth, gaming, addiction, iGeneration, chat

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. i | 3. c | 5. b | 7. h | 9. e |
| 2. d | 4. j | 6. a | 8. f | 10. g |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- The iGeneration refers to the group of people born into a world of mobile devices.
- According to the reading, mobile devices are replacing books and toys for babies and toddlers who are on the go.
- Literacy experts were worried about video game consoles and television screens before mobile devices.
- Health professionals who are concerned about technology worry about obesity and brain development in kids.
- Children who were born in the iGeneration are used to having information at their fingertips. They are also used to being constantly connected to their family and friends.

Vocabulary Review

Answers for sentences will vary.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. happy medium | 5. educational app |
| 2. adult supervision | 6. at her fingertips |
| 3. Generation Y | 7. childhood obesity |
| 4. keep me company | |

Cyberspeak

- BRB – be right back
- GTG – got to go
- POS or P911 – parent over shoulder / parent in room
- LMIRL – let’s meet in real life
- W/E – whatever
- ASL – what’s your age, sex, and location?
- ROFL – rolling on the floor laughing

Discussion

Answers will vary. For writing practice, advanced students can choose a question and write an essay response.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Critical Thinking

Answers will vary. For writing practice, advanced students can choose a question and write an essay response. Invite pairs to present their ideas from the Critical Thinking task to the class.

Listening

1. tablets, keep them company
2. cautioned, Generation Y
3. obesity, peers
4. happy medium, apps
5. at their fingertips, technology