

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

“Generation Me” students more selfish

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

30th May, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

A new report says today's teenagers are more selfish than they were 20 years ago. The report's researcher is Dr Sara Konrath of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. She found that today's "Generation Me" cared less about other people than they did two decades ago. Dr Konrath looked at statistics of 14,000 university students over a thirty year period. Her colleague, Edward O'Brien, said: "College students today may be so busy worrying about themselves and their own issues that they don't have time to spend [thinking about] others.

Dr Konrath believes video games and the Internet are the biggest reasons for this increased selfishness. "This generation...grew up with video games [and] violent media numbs people to the pain of others," she said. She found the big increase started from the year 2000, which is when violent video games became really popular. Another reason was online social networks, which reduce face-to-face contact. Also to blame was an obsession with celebrities. This encouraged youngsters to hide their weaknesses and to try and be better than others.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. today's teenagers are more selfish | a. ago |
| 2. cared less | b. themselves |
| 3. two decades | c. period |
| 4. over a thirty year | d. than they were |
| 5. so busy worrying about | e. to spend |
| 6. they don't have time | f. about other people |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the biggest reasons for this | a. up with video games |
| 2. This generation...grew | b. became really popular |
| 3. when violent video games | c. than others |
| 4. an obsession with | d. weaknesses |
| 5. hide their | e. increased selfishness |
| 6. be better | f. celebrities |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

A new report says today's teenagers _____ they were 20 years ago. The report's researcher is Dr Sara Konrath of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. She found that today's "Generation Me" _____ people than they _____ ago. Dr Konrath looked at statistics of 14,000 university students _____ period. Her colleague, Edward O'Brien, said: "College students today may be _____ about themselves and their own issues that they don't _____ [thinking about] others.

Dr Konrath believes video games and the Internet are the biggest reasons for _____. "This generation...grew up with video games [and] violent media _____ the pain of others," she said. She found the big increase started from the year 2000, which is _____ games became really popular. Another reason was online social networks, _____-to-face contact. Also to blame _____ celebrities. This encouraged youngsters to hide their weaknesses and to _____ than others.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

A new report says (1) _____ teenagers are more selfish than they were 20 years ago. The report's researcher is Dr Sara Konrath of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. She found that today's "Generation Me" (2) _____ less about other people than they did two decades ago. Dr Konrath looked at statistics of 14,000 university students (3) _____ a thirty year period. Her (4) _____, Edward O'Brien, said: "College students today may be so busy worrying about themselves and their own issues that they don't have time to (5) _____ [thinking about] others.

Dr Konrath believes video games and the Internet are the biggest reasons for this (6) _____ selfishness. "This generation...grew up with video games [and] violent media numbs people to the (7) _____ of others," she said. She found the big increase started from the year 2000, which is when violent video games (8) _____ really popular. Another reason was online social networks, which reduce (9) _____ -to-face contact. Also to blame was an obsession with celebrities. This encouraged youngsters to (10) _____ their weaknesses and to try and be better than others.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) today | (b) days | (c) today's |
| 2. | (a) cared | (b) careless | (c) caring |
| 3. | (a) under | (b) over | (c) through |
| 4. | (a) colleague | (b) collage | (c) college |
| 5. | (a) spending | (b) spent | (c) spend |
| 6. | (a) increase | (b) increases | (c) increased |
| 7. | (a) pain | (b) ache | (c) ouch |
| 8. | (a) become | (b) became | (c) becoming |
| 9. | (a) head | (b) skull | (c) face |
| 10. | (a) hiding | (b) hide | (c) hid |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. A new pretor
2. rcdae less about other people
3. two ddeasce ago
4. a thirty year pidreo
5. have time to edpns
6. thinking about rtohes

Paragraph 2

7. the biggest rsaneos
8. egrw up with video games
9. the big caerines
10. oveitln video games
11. online ascoli networks
12. hide their enksaewsse

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100530-generation_me.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Dr Konrath believes video games and the Internet are the biggest reasons for this increased
- () students today may be so busy worrying about themselves and their own issues that they don't have time to spend [thinking about] others.
- (**1**) A new report says today's teenagers are more selfish than they were 20 years ago. The report's researcher
- () became really popular. Another reason was online social networks, which reduce face-to-face contact. Also to
- () statistics of 14,000 university students over a thirty year period. Her colleague, Edward O'Brien, said: "College
- () others," she said. She found the big increase started from the year 2000, which is when violent video games
- () selfishness. "This generation...grew up with video games [and] violent media numbs people to the pain of
- () today's "Generation Me" cared less about other people than they did two decades ago. Dr Konrath looked at
- () is Dr Sara Konrath of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. She found that
- () blame was an obsession with celebrities. This encouraged youngsters to hide their weaknesses and to try and be better than others.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. are were more selfish Today's than teenagers they.

2. Me people cared less Today's about Generation other.

3. of Statistics students university 14,000.

4. busy So themselves about worrying.

5. about They time thinking have spend others don't to.

6. selfishness this reasons The increased for biggest.

7. from The the big year increase 2000 started.

8. networks Another was social reason online.

9. to with blame celebrities was an Also obsession.

10. encouraged This weaknesses their hide to youngsters.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

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

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

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

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. SELFISHNESS: Search the Internet and find more information about selfishness. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about "Generation Me". Include imaginary an interview with one student who's very selfish and another who's very selfless. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on "Generation Me". Ask him/her three questions about selfishness. Give him/her three of your opinions on selfishness and how we can reduce it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.