

I'm constantly told to worry about my child's screen time – but I'm more concerned about my own

Level 2: Intermediate

Article summary: In this article, the writer shares his concerns about his screen time.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking

Language focus: Linking words and phrases

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. Ask students to work in pairs and discuss the questions. Encourage them to give reasons for their opinions. After a couple of minutes, hold a brief discussion with the whole group so every pair can share their views.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to work individually or in pairs and match the words with their definitions. Tell them all the words appear in the article, so they can see them in context if they are unsure about their meaning. Allow some minutes for students to check answers in pairs or groups of three before checking with the whole group.

Key:

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

- b. Ask students to work in pairs again, this time to complete the sentences using words from the previous exercise in the correct form.

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>glanced</i> | 4. <i>embraced</i> |
| 2. <i>scroll</i> | 5. <i>gist</i> |
| 3. <i>afford</i> | 6. <i>flicking</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually and choose the correct option to complete each sentence. Once finished, give them some minutes to check in pairs before checking answers with the whole class.

Key:

1. *about things they cannot control*
2. *are stressed about*
3. *how much time he himself spends on screens*
4. *distracted living*
5. *be able to concentrate better*
6. *gets distracted*

4. Key language

- a. Students work in pairs again, this time to match the linkers from the article with similar words and phrases from a to g.

Key:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>f</i> | 5. <i>d</i> |
| 2. <i>g</i> | 6. <i>e</i> |
| 3. <i>c</i> | 7. <i>a</i> |
| 4. <i>b</i> | |

- b. Asks students to complete the sentences using the linking words and phrases a to g from task a. They can do this individually or in pairs.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>suddenly</i> | 4. <i>similarly</i> |
| 2. <i>in fact,</i> | 5. <i>later</i> |
| 3. <i>sadly</i> | 6. <i>therefore</i> |

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements from the article and provide reasons for their opinions, referring to their own experience whenever possible.

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6. In your own words

- a. This task can be assigned as homework individually or in pairs. Ask students to do some online research and prepare a presentation about the potential dangers of excessive screen time and some strategies they can implement to manage screen time more effectively.