

Today's teenagers growing up more slowly

21st September, 2017



A new study says today's teenagers are growing up more slowly than previous generations. Research from San Diego State University looked at data on teenage

behaviour from the past 40 years, between 1976 and 2016. It looked at surveys on 8 million teens from seven different countries. Researchers said that compared to teenagers from the 70s, 80s and 90s, today's teens, "are taking longer to engage in both the pleasures and the responsibilities of adulthood". Professor Jean Twenge said: "The whole developmental pathway has slowed down." She said today's 18-year-olds are living more like 15-year-olds used to live. She said teenagers are taking far fewer risks than they did before.

The researchers said today's teenagers are taking longer to do things their parents and grandparents did. They are older when they go on their first date, less likely to have a part-time job, and are less likely to drive. Professor Twenge said this is a, "slow life strategy". Researchers also found that more teenagers are spending longer living with their parents instead of renting their own room or apartment. One of the reasons for these behaviours is how much time teenagers spend online. The Internet is keeping teens on social media, looking at videos or playing games instead of living in the "real world". Another reason was parents who try and do too much for their children and protect them too much.

Sources: usatoday.com / nine.com.au / metro.news

Writing

Today's teenagers are more mature than ever before. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

teenagers / growing up / behaviour / surveys / engage / responsibilities / taking risks / grandparents / first date / part-time job / apartment / social media / the real world

True / False

- a) Researchers looked at data on people up to the age of 40. T / F
- b) Researchers looked at data on 8 million teens. T / F
- c) Researchers compared today's teens with teens from the 1970s. T / F
- d) Today's 18-year-olds are similar to 15-year-olds in the past. T / F
- e) The researchers said teenagers are no longer dating. T / F
- f) A professor said today's teenagers have a 'slow-life strategy'. T / F
- g) Spending time online makes teenagers more responsible. T / F
- h) Protective parents make teenagers more responsible. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. previous | a. probable |
| 2. data | b. join in |
| 3. surveys | c. a lot |
| 4. engage | d. cause |
| 5. far | e. facts |
| 6. likely | f. plan |
| 7. strategy | g. safeguard |
| 8. apartment | h. earlier |
| 9. reason | i. flat |
| 10. protect | j. studies |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Did you or do you enjoy being a teenager?
- c) What is the worst thing about being a teenager?
- d) What is the best age for a first date?
- e) Should teenagers live with their parents?
- f) What problems are there with teenagers always being online?
- g) Do parents do too much for teenagers?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a teenager?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. growing up more slowly than | a. from the 70s, 80s and 90s |
| 2. looked at data on teenage | b. own room |
| 3. It looked at surveys | c. far fewer risks |
| 4. compared to teenagers | d. behaviour |
| 5. teenagers are taking | e. living with their parents |
| 6. They are older when they go | f. "real world" |
| 7. spending longer | g. on 8 million teens |
| 8. renting their | h. for their children |
| 9. living in the | i. on their first date |
| 10. do too much | j. previous generations |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of teenagers?
- What is the best thing about being a teenager?
- How are teenagers different to other people?
- What do teenagers learn about life?
- Are teenagers different today?
- Is it good to be a teenager today?
- What responsibilities do teenagers have?
- Why are today's teenagers growing up more slowly?

Spelling

- more slowly than rsepuvoi generations
- teenage rbveiouah
- vsesyru on 8 million teens
- ameopcdr to teenagers
- taking longer to angeeg
- taking far eerfw risks
- less kleyli to drive
- a slow life yrttsage
- their own room or amntperta
- One of the saesnor
- atdenis of living in the "real world"
- epttcor them too much

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Friendships

You think friendships are the most difficult things about growing up. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): rules, dating or confidence.

Role B – Rules

You think rules are the most difficult things about growing up. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): friendships, dating or confidence.

Role C – Dating

You think dating is the most difficult thing about growing up. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): rules, friendships or confidence.

Role D – Confidence

You think confidence is the most difficult thing about growing up. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): rules, dating or friendships.

Speaking – Growing up

Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult things about growing up at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| • dating | • friendships |
| • money | • parent relationships |
| • bullying | • rules |
| • confidence | • homework |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.