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Level 1

Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads

4th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-1.html>

Technology is lowering children's ability to use pencils. Researchers said children spend so much time swiping screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Their hands do not have the muscle power to write properly. A researcher said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength...they had 10 years ago. Children...are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the...skills."

Technology is changing how children write, draw or make things. The researcher explained that it's easier to give a child an iPad than let them build muscles by playing, using building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling ropes. Children are not getting the skills they need to hold a pencil. Some researchers say technology creates bigger problems. If a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. They need to climb trees.

Sources: <https://www.treehugger.com/culture/kids-spend-so-much-time-ipads-they-cant-hold-pencil.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/feb/25/children-struggle-to-hold-pencils-due-to-too-much-tech-doctors-say>
Schwellnus et al <https://ajot.aota.org/article.aspx?articleid=1851631>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. swiping | a. 10 years ago |
| 2. they cannot hold a pencil | b. hold it |
| 3. the muscle | c. properly |
| 4. children are not coming | d. the skills |
| 5. strength they had | e. pencil |
| 6. being given a | f. screens |
| 7. able to | g. into school |
| 8. they don't have | h. power |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. write, draw | a. bigger problems |
| 2. build muscles | b. is weak |
| 3. cutting and | c. or make things |
| 4. getting the skills they | d. trees |
| 5. technology creates | e. sticking |
| 6. strong enough to | f. need |
| 7. their whole body | g. by playing |
| 8. They need to climb | h. hold a pencil |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-1.html>

Technology is lowering children's (1) _____
pencils. Researchers said children (2) _____
time swiping screens that they cannot hold (3) _____.
Their hands do not have (4) _____ to write
properly. A researcher said: "Children are not coming into school
with (5) _____...they had 10 years ago.
Children...are being given a pencil but (6) _____
not able to hold it because they don't have the...skills."

Technology is (7) _____ write, draw or make
things. The researcher explained that it's easier to give a child an
iPad than let them (8) _____ playing, using
building blocks, (9) _____, or pulling ropes.
Children are not (10) _____ they need to hold a
pencil. Some researchers say technology creates bigger
problems. If a child (11) _____ to hold a pencil,
perhaps their whole body is weak. They
(12) _____ trees.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-1.html>

Technology is lowering children's ability to use pencils. Researchers said children spend so much time wiping screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Their hands do not have the muscle power to write properly. A researcher said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength... they had 10 years ago. Children... are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the... skills." Technology is changing how children write, draw or make things. The researcher explained that it's easier to give a child an iPad than let them build muscles by playing, using building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling ropes. Children are not getting the skills they need to hold a pencil. Some researchers say technology creates bigger problems. If a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. They need to climb trees.

HOLDING A PENCIL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about holding a pencil in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

