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Level 3

Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads

4th April, 2018

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

A study shows that new technology is reducing children's ability to use a pencil or pen. The study is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that nowadays, children spend so much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Children are not using pencils, so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement skills."

The researchers said technology is changing the physical way that children write, draw or make things. Children are increasingly using technology to create. Dr Payne explained why. She said: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not developing the underlying foundation skills they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said it was better for children's physical development to climb trees than to watch YouTube videos.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. HOLDING A PENCIL: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about holding a pencil. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

study / technology / pencil / nowadays / screens / muscles / writing properly / skills / researchers / draw things / building blocks / toys / expert / body / climb trees / videos

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PENCILS: Students A **strongly** believe pencils are more important than iPads; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CHILDREN: How is technology affecting children? Write down the good and bad effects. Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good effects	Bad effects
Exercise		
Eyesight		
Reading		
Writing		
Friends		
Family time		

5. PEN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "pen". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. HANDS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important thing children must be able to use at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a pen or pencil
- scissors
- a knife and fork
- a computer keyboard
- a guitar
- a joystick
- chopsticks
- a saw

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. reducing | a. At the present time, compared to the past. |
| 2. nowadays | b. Being without or not having enough of something. |
| 3. swiping | c. Correctly; in the right way. |
| 4. properly | d. Move your finger across a touchscreen in order to use it. |
| 5. lack | e. Making smaller or less in amount, degree, or size. |
| 6. strength | f. Basic. |
| 7. fundamental | g. The quality or state of being physically strong. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. physical | h. A person who has a lot of knowledge or skill in a particular area. |
| 9. encourage | i. Relating to the body, not the mind. |
| 10. developing | j. Hold something tightly in your hand. |
| 11. foundation | k. Use the hands and/or feet to go up a tree, stairs, wall, etc. |
| 12. grip | l. Growing or causing to grow and become more adult. |
| 13. expert | m. The starting point for build from. |
| 14. climb | n. Give support, confidence, or hope to someone. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article describes a study done by health services in the USA. **T / F**
- b. Children today do not have the muscle power to hold a pencil properly. **T / F**
- c. Children had more muscle strength to hold a pencil 10 years ago. **T / F**
- d. The article says schools no longer give pencils to children. **T / F**
- e. Technology isn't changing how children draw or make things. **T / F**
- f. A researcher said it's easier to give a child an iPad than building blocks. **T / F**
- g. A researcher said weak hands might be a sign of a weaker body. **T / F**
- h. Children climb trees more often than they look at YouTube videos. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. reducing | a. power |
| 2. nowadays | b. create |
| 3. properly | c. basic |
| 4. strength | d. correctly |
| 5. fundamental | e. starting point |
| 6. make | f. these days |
| 7. encourage | g. growth |
| 8. foundation | h. specialists |
| 9. experts | i. decreasing |
| 10. development | j. persuade |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. technology is reducing children's ability | a. that children write |
| 2. children spend so much time swiping | b. movement skills |
| 3. they now lack the muscle | c. grip |
| 4. to be able to write | d. to climb trees |
| 5. they don't have the fundamental | e. strength in their hands |
| 6. changing the physical way | f. body is weak |
| 7. building | g. to use a pencil |
| 8. skills they need to | h. properly |
| 9. perhaps their whole | i. blocks |
| 10. better for children's physical development | j. iPads |

GAP FILL

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

A study shows that new technology is reducing children's (1) _____ to use a pencil or pen. The study is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that (2) _____, children spend so much (3) _____ swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil (4) _____. Children are not using pencils, so they now (5) _____ the muscle strength in their hands to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand (6) _____ and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are (7) _____ not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement (8) _____."

time
strength
properly
skills
ability
increasingly
nowadays
lack

The (9) _____ said technology is changing the physical way that children write, draw or make (10) _____. Children are increasingly using technology to (11) _____. Dr Payne explained why. She said: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play (12) _____ as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not developing the underlying foundation (13) _____ they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology may be (14) _____ bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is (15) _____. She said it was better for children's (16) _____ development to climb trees than to watch YouTube videos.

things
causing
such
physical
researchers
weak
skills
create

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) A study shows that new technology is reducing children's _____ a pencil
 - a. ability to use
 - b. ability to lose
 - c. ability to choose
 - d. ability choose
- 2) Researchers said that nowadays, children spend so _____
 - a. much time sweeping
 - b. much time swipe in
 - c. much time swapping
 - d. much time swiping
- 3) so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able _____
 - a. to write property
 - b. to write proper
 - c. to write properly
 - d. to write propeller
- 4) not coming into school with the hand strength and [ability] they had _____
 - a. 10 years again
 - b. 10 years ago
 - c. 10 years ergo
 - d. 10 years age
- 5) increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental _____
 - a. move meant skills
 - b. move mint skills
 - c. moved meant skills
 - d. movement skills
- 6) The researchers said technology is changing _____
 - a. the physically way
 - b. the physical weigh
 - c. the physical way
 - d. the physically weigh
- 7) Children are increasingly using technology to create. Dr Payne _____
 - a. explain it why
 - b. explanation why
 - c. explains why
 - d. explained why
- 8) muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, _____
 - a. or pull in toys
 - b. ore-pull in toys
 - c. ore pulling in toys
 - d. or pulling toys
- 9) Because of this, they're not developing the underlying foundation skills they _____
 - a. needs to gripe
 - b. need to grip
 - c. needy to grab
 - d. needed to gripe
- 10) She said it was better for children's physical development _____
 - a. to climb trees
 - b. to clamber trees
 - c. to climate trees
 - d. took limb trees

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A study shows that new technology (1) _____ ability to use a pencil or pen. The study is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers (2) _____, children spend so much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that (3) _____ a pencil properly. Children are not using pencils, so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able (4) _____. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children (5) _____ are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have (6) _____ movement skills."

The researchers said technology is changing (7) _____ that children write, draw or make things. Children are increasingly using (8) _____. Dr Payne explained why. She said: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do (9) _____ such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not developing (10) _____ foundation skills they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child (11) _____ to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said it was better for children's physical development to (12) _____ to watch YouTube videos.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Which organization carried out the study?
2. What do children spend a lot of time swiping these days?
3. What do children lack in their hands?
4. When did children have more ability in their hands?
5. What are children given in schools that they increasingly cannot use?
6. What are children using more of to create things?
7. What did a researcher say children aren't pulling these days?
8. What did some experts say technology is causing?
9. What could be weak because of an inability to hold a pencil?
10. What did the article say was better for children's development?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Which organization carried out the study?
 - a) The World Writes
 - b) the Pencil Association
 - c) the National Health Service
 - d) a children's charity
- 2) What do children spend a lot of time swiping these days?
 - a) iPads
 - b) things from shops
 - c) table tops
 - d) keyboards
- 3) What do children lack in their hands?
 - a) vitamin B12
 - b) energy
 - c) bones
 - d) muscle strength
- 4) When did children have more ability in their hands?
 - a) 1786
 - b) 10 years ago
 - c) at 2:45pm
 - d) last week
- 5) What are children given in schools that they increasingly cannot use?
 - a) books
 - b) balls
 - c) pencils
 - d) calculators
- 6) What are children using more of to create things?
 - a) pens
 - b) technology
 - c) clay
 - d) their brain
- 7) What did a researcher say children aren't pulling these days?
 - a) teeth
 - b) other children's legs
 - c) their weight
 - d) toys and ropes
- 8) What did some experts say technology is causing?
 - a) better education
 - b) bigger problems
 - c) poor eyesight
 - d) progress
- 9) What could be weak because of an inability to hold a pencil?
 - a) a child's whole body
 - b) brain power
 - c) willpower
 - d) a child's left knee
- 10) What did the article say was better for children's development?
 - a) family life
 - b) museums
 - c) chocolate
 - d) climbing trees

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Pencil

You think a pencil is the most important thing for children to learn to use. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): chopsticks, scissors or computer keyboard.

Role B – Chopsticks

You think chopsticks are the most important things for children to learn to use. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): pencil, scissors or computer keyboard.

Role C – Scissors

You think scissors are the most important thing for children to learn to use. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): chopsticks, pencil or computer keyboard.

Role D – Computer Keyboard

You think a computer keyboard is the most important thing for children to learn to use. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): chopsticks, scissors or pencil.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'pen' and 'pencil'.

pen	pencil
------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing• spend• lack• ago• school• movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• way• create• play• toys• bigger• better
---	--

HOLDING A PENCIL SURVEY

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

HOLDING A PENCIL DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pen'?
3. How good is technology for children?
4. What is wrong with children using smartphones and tablets?
5. Is using a pen and pencil still an important skill?
6. In what other ways does the body change when children use iPads?
7. What problems will children have if they cannot use a pencil?
8. How useful are pencils?
9. Which is more useful, a pencil or iPad?
10. What would happen if pens and pencils disappeared?

Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads – 4th April, 2018
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HOLDING A PENCIL DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'pencil'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the dangers of children using technology?
15. Are children more creative using iPads?
16. Why should children play with building blocks?
17. Does it matter that iPads are making children's bodies weaker?
18. How much do you like mobile devices?
19. What do you think of climbing trees?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

A study shows that new technology is (1) _____ children's ability to use a pencil or pen. The study is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that nowadays, children (2) _____ so much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Children are not using pencils, (3) _____ they now lack the muscle strength (4) _____ their hands to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming (5) _____ school with the hand strength and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are (6) _____ not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement skills."

The researchers said technology is changing the (7) _____ way that children write, draw or make things. Children are increasingly using technology to create. Dr Payne explained why. She said: "It's (8) _____ to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, (9) _____ pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not developing the underlying foundation skills they need to (10) _____ and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong (11) _____ to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said it was better for children's physical development to (12) _____ trees than to watch YouTube videos.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) reduced | (b) reduction | (c) reducing | (d) reduces |
| 2. | (a) spend | (b) purchase | (c) buy | (d) while |
| 3. | (a) so | (b) such | (c) that | (d) this |
| 4. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) to | (d) as |
| 5. | (a) onto | (b) into | (c) as to | (d) up to |
| 6. | (a) increase | (b) increases | (c) increased | (d) increasingly |
| 7. | (a) physique | (b) physics | (c) physical | (d) psychic |
| 8. | (a) easily | (b) eased | (c) eases | (d) easier |
| 9. | (a) or | (b) nor | (c) not | (d) as |
| 10. | (a) grip | (b) grip | (c) grapple | (d) grab |
| 11. | (a) plenty | (b) enough | (c) amount | (d) ample |
| 12. | (a) clamber | (b) crimp | (c) climb | (d) clamp |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. reducing children's yltiab to use a pencil
2. spend so much time wingpis iPads
3. mobile phone csrnese
4. be able to write pelroryp
5. hand hrttgens
6. fundamental venemtom skills

Paragraph 2

7. the plcsaiyh way that children write
8. using tcyhoonegl to create
9. guncroeea them
10. some petxres
11. if a child isn't strong ngeuoh
12. bcilm trees

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () pencils, so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able to write
- () things. Children are increasingly using technology to create. Dr Payne explained
- (**1**) A study shows that new technology is reducing children's ability to use a pencil or pen. The study is from
- () the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that nowadays, children spend so
- () developing the underlying foundation skills they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts
- () strength and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being
- () whole body is weak. She said it was better for children's physical development to climb trees than to watch YouTube videos.
- () much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Children are not using
- () properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand
- () as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not
- () given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement skills."
- () say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their
- () The researchers said technology is changing the physical way that children write, draw or make
- () why. She said: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play such

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. children's to use Technology reducing is pencils . ability
2. iPads . much swiping time spend Children so
3. the lack in strength muscle hands . They their
4. hand 10 years they strength The had ago .
5. fundamental They don't movement have skills . the
6. physical that write . Changing way children the
7. are to using Children technology create . increasingly
8. iPad . child easier an a give It's to
9. be may technology problems . causing bigger say Experts
10. to climb development trees . for Better children's physical

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A study shows that new technology is reducing children's *able / ability* to use a pencil or pen. The *study / studied* is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that *today's / nowadays*, children spend so much time *sweeping / swiping* iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil *property / properly*. Children are not using pencils, so they now lack the muscle *strength / strong* in their hands to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not *come / coming* into school with the hand strength and [ability] they *have / had* 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are *increasingly / increased* not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement *skillful / skills*."

The researchers said technology is *changing / changed* the physical way that children write, *drew / draw* or make things. Children are increasingly *using / uses* technology to create. Dr Payne explained *what / why*. She said: "It's easier to give a *child / children* an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not *developing / development* the underlying foundation skills they need to *gripe / grip* and hold a pencil." Some *experts / expertise* say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong *plenty / enough* to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is *weak / week*. She said it was better for children's physical development to climb trees *than / that* to watch YouTube videos.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

A s t_d y s h_w s t h_t n_w t_c h n_l_g y _s
r_d_c_n_g c h_l d r_n 's _b_l_t y t_ _s_ _ p_n c_l _r
p_n. Th_ s t_d y _s f_r_m th_ N_t__ n_l H__ l_t h
S_r v_c_ _n th_ U_K. R_s__ r_c h_r s s__ d th_t
n_w_d_y s, c h_l d r_n s p_n d s_ m_c h t_m_ s
w_p_n_g _P_d s _r m_b_l_ p_h_n_ s_c r__ n_s th_t t
h_y c_n n_t h_l d _ p_n c_l p_r_p_r_l_y. C h_l d r_n
r n_t _s_n_g p_n c_l_s, s_ th_y n_w l_c k th_
m_s c_l_ s_t_r_n_g_t_h _n th__ r h_n d_s t_ b_ _b_l_
t_ w_r_t_ p_r_p_r_l_y. R_s__ r_c h_r D_r S_l_l_y P_y
n_ s__ d: "C h_l d r_n _r_ n_t c_m_n_g _n_t_ s_c h__
l_ w_t_h th_ h_n d_ s_t_r_n_g_t_h _n_d [_b_l_t_y] t
h_y h_d 10 y__ r_s _g_. C h_l d r_n c_m_n_g _n_t_
s_c h__ l_ _r_ b__ n_g g_v_n _ p_n c_l_ b_t _r_ _n_c_r__
s_n_g_l_y n_t _b_l_ t_ h_l d_ t_ b_c__ s_ th_y d_n't
h_v_ th_ f_n d_m_n_t_l m_v_m_n_t s_k_l_l_s."

Th_ r_s__ r_c h_r s s__ d t_c h n_l_g y _s c_h_n_g_n_g
th_ p_h_y_s_c_l_ w_y th_t c h_l d r_n w_r_t_, d_r_w
_r m_k_ th_n_g_s. C h_l d r_n _r_ _n_c_r__ s_n_g_l_y
_s_n_g t_c h n_l_g y t_ c_r__ t_. D_r P_y_n_ _x_p_l__
n_d w_h_y. S_h_ s__ d: "I_t's __ s__ r_t_ g_v__
c h_l d _n _P_d th_n _n_c__ r_g_ th_m t_ d_ m_s c
l_- b__ l_d_n_g p_l_y s_c h_ s_ b__ l_d_n_g b_l_c_k_s,
c_t_t_n_g _n_d s_t_c_k_n_g, _r p_l_l_n_g t_y_s _n_d
r_p_s. B_c__ s_ _f th_s, th_y 'r_ n_t d_v_l_p_n_g
th_ _n_d_r_l_y_n_g f__ n_d_t__ n s_k_l_l_s th_y n__ d
t_ g_r_p _n_d h_l d _ p_n c_l." S_m_ _x_p_r_t_s s_y
t_c h n_l_g y m_y b_ c__ s_n_g b_g_g_r p_r_b_l_m_s.
O_n_ _x_p_r_t s__ d _f _ c_h_l_d _s_n't s_t_r_n_g _n__
g_h t_ h_l d _ p_n c_l, p_r_h_p_s th__ r w_h_l_
b_d_y _s w__ k. S_h_ s__ d _t w_s b_t_t_r f_r c
h_l d r_n 's p_h_y_s_c_l_ d_v_l_p_m_n_t t_ c_l_m_b t
r__ s th_n t_ w_t_c h Y__ T_b_ v_d__ s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a study shows that new technology is reducing childrens ability to use a pencil or pen the study is from the national health service in the uk researchers said that nowadays children spend so much time swiping ipads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly children are not using pencils so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able to write properly researcher dr sally payne said children are not coming into school with the hand strength and ability they had 10 years ago children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they dont have the fundamental movement skills

the researchers said technology is changing the physical way that children write draw or make things children are increasingly using technology to create dr payne explained why she said its easier to give a child an ipad than encourage them to do musclebuilding play such as building blocks cutting and sticking or pulling toys and ropes because of this theyre not developing the underlying foundation skills they need to grip and hold a pencil some experts say technology may be causing bigger problems one expert said if a child isnt strong enough to hold a pencil perhaps their whole body is weak she said it was better for childrens physical development to climb trees than to watch youtube videos

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A study shows that new technology is reducing children's ability to use a pencil properly. The study is from the National Health Service in the UK. Researchers said that nowadays, children spend so much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. Children are not using pencils, so they now lack the muscle strength in their hands to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength and [ability] they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the fundamental movement skills." The researchers said technology is changing the physical way that children write, draw or make things. Children are increasingly using technology to create. Dr Payne explained why. She said: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building plays such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes. Because of this, they're not developing the underlying foundation skills they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology may be causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said it was better for children's physical development to climb trees than to watch YouTube videos.

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HOLDING A PENCIL: Make a poster about holding a pencil. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TECHNOLOGY: Write a magazine article about children not using technology until they are eight years old. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. 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.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on holding a pencil. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to get children to use pencils more often. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. g 7. f
8. i 9. n 10. l 11. m 12. j 13. h 14. k

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c T d F e F f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. reducing | a. decreasing |
| 2. nowadays | b. these days |
| 3. properly | c. correctly |
| 4. strength | d. power |
| 5. fundamental | e. basic |
| 6. make | f. create |
| 7. encourage | g. persuade |
| 8. foundation | h. starting point |
| 9. experts | i. specialists |
| 10. development | j. growth |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The National Health Service
2. iPads
3. Muscle strength
4. Ten years ago
5. A pencil
6. Technology
7. Toys and ropes
8. Bigger problems
9. A child's whole body
10. Climbing trees

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Technology is reducing children's ability to use pencils.
2. Children spend so much time swiping iPads.
3. They lack the muscle strength in their hands.
4. The hand strength they had 10 years ago.
5. They don't have the fundamental movement skills.
6. Changing the physical way that children write.
7. Children are increasingly using technology to create.
8. It's easier to give a child an iPad.
9. Experts say technology may be causing bigger problems.
10. Better for children's physical development to climb trees.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)