

South Korea pays lonely people to leave the house

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Many people around the world stay at home and do not want to go out. They cut themselves off from the world outside. They are recluses – people who do not want to meet other people. The government in South Korea has thought of

an idea to encourage these people to "re-enter society". It will pay young people \$500 a month to leave their home. The monthly payment will be for lonely people aged nine to 24 years old who come from poorer families. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said it wants to help younger people. It said it wants young people to go out. This will support their "psychological and emotional stability, and healthy growth".

There are many reasons for people not wanting to leave the house. The number of recluses has gone up because of the pandemic. Korea says about 3.1 per cent of young Koreans are reclusive. They "have noticeable difficulty in living a normal life". The government said children shut themselves off from society for many reasons. These include bullying, exam stress, family problems, bad parenting and technology and social media. It said the \$500-a-month payment will help these young people. This means they could be less likely to have mental problems. They will also be healthier. Korea has an ageing society. It needs young people to work so they can help old people.

Sources: cnn.com / yahoo.com / time.com

Writing

All schools should teach children about how to help society. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

stay at home / the world / recluse / idea / \$500 a month / poorer families / growth / leave the house / pandemic / a normal life / bullying / ageing society / old people

True / False

- 1) Many people cut themselves off from their homes. T / F
- 2) A recluse is someone who likes meeting new people. T / F
- 3) S. Korea will pay young, lonely people \$500 a month to go out. T / F
- 4) The Ministry of Gender Equality wants to help older people to go out. T / F
- 5) The pandemic increased the number of people who are reclusive. T / F
- 6) The article says about 31% of Koreans are reclusive. T / F
- 7) One reason for reclusiveness is social media. T / F
- 8) More people in South Korea are living to be an older age. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. stay | a. support |
| 2. idea | b. probable |
| 3. encourage | c. isolated |
| 4. lonely | d. easy-to-see |
| 5. growth | e. plan |
| 6. gone up | f. nation |
| 7. noticeable | g. remain |
| 8. likely | h. greying |
| 9. ageing | i. development |
| 10. society | j. increased |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Did you get lonely during the pandemic?
- c) Do you prefer being alone or being with other people?
- d) Do you have difficulties in leading a normal life?
- e) How can we deal with bullying?
- f) Do technology and social media make people lonelier?
- g) What problems might an ageing society have?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a recluse?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. They cut themselves off from | a. to go out |
| 2. They are recluses – people who do not | b. stress |
| 3. monthly | c. stability |
| 4. it wants young people | d. mental problems |
| 5. psychological and emotional | e. payment |
| 6. children shut themselves | f. society |
| 7. exam | g. the world outside |
| 8. the \$500-a-month | h. off from society |
| 9. they could be less likely to have | i. want to meet other people |
| 10. Korea has an ageing | j. payment |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you ever get lonely?
- What do you do when you are lonely?
- Do you like going out or staying at home?
- Why does someone become a recluse?
- Do you like meeting other people?
- Will the \$500 payment encourage people to go out?
- What damage can loneliness do?
- What advice do you have for someone who is lonely?

Spelling

- They are slaucers
- The vgmenorent in South Korea
- an idea to recueaogn these people
- The hlymton payment
- aleotonim stability
- healthy rghtow
- because of the padcemni
- They have noticeable diftcfuiliy
- These include yilgblnu
- gyheoolnct and social media
- they could be less llyeki
- Korea has an ageing ctisoey

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Bullying

You think bullying is the biggest difficulty in life. 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): exam stress, family problems or getting old.

Role B – Exam Stress

You think exam stress is the biggest difficulty in life. 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): bullying, family problems or getting old.

Role C – Family Problems

You think family problems are the biggest difficulty in life. 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): exam stress, bullying or getting old.

Role D – Getting Old

You think getting old is the biggest difficulty in life. 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): exam stress, family problems or bullying.

Speaking – Difficulties

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest difficulties at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • Bullying | • Technology |
| • Exam stress | • Social media |
| • The pandemic | • Money |
| • Family problems | • Getting old |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.