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## Level 0

### Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads

4th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-0.html>

Technology means today's children aren't good at using pencils. Children spend a lot of time swiping screens. This means their hands do not have the muscles to write. A researcher said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength...they had 10 years ago." Children do not have the skills to hold a pencil.

Technology is changing how children write, draw or make things. Children need to build muscles by playing, climbing trees, using building blocks, cutting and sticking, etc. Some people say technology creates bigger problems. If a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, maybe their whole body is weak.

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-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. today's children aren't good | a. ago                |
| 2. spend a lot                  | b. skills             |
| 3. swiping                      | c. of time            |
| 4. have the muscles             | d. a pencil           |
| 5. Children are not             | e. at using pencils   |
| 6. they had 10 years            | f. to write           |
| 7. Children do not have the     | g. coming into school |
| 8. hold                         | h. screens            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Technology is changing how | a. sticking       |
| 2. draw or make               | b. hold a pencil  |
| 3. build muscles              | c. children write |
| 4. using building             | d. is weak        |
| 5. cutting and                | e. by playing     |
| 6. technology creates bigger  | f. blocks         |
| 7. strong enough to           | g. things         |
| 8. their whole body           | h. problems       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-0.html>

Technology (1) \_\_\_\_\_ aren't good at using pencils. Children spend a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ swiping screens. This (3) \_\_\_\_\_ do not have the muscles to write. A researcher said: "Children (4) \_\_\_\_\_ into school with (5) \_\_\_\_\_...they had 10 years ago." Children do not have the skills to (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Technology (7) \_\_\_\_\_ children write, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ things. Children need to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ playing, climbing trees, using building blocks, cutting and sticking, etc. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ technology creates bigger problems. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, maybe their whole (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-0.html>

Technology mean today's children aren't good at using pencils. Children spend a lot of times wiping screens. This means their hands do not have the muscle to write. A researcher said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength... they had 10 years ago." Children do not have the skill to hold a pencil. Technology is changing how children write, draw or make things. Children need to build muscles by playing, climbing trees, using building blocks, cutting and sticking, etc. Some people say technology creates bigger problems. If a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, maybe their whole body is weak.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads – 4th April, 2018*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-0.html>

Write about **holding a pencil** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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