



The Good Generation

Lesson code: LJ6U-ZXTB-AULB-M

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm up

Do many teenagers drink and smoke in your country?

2 Key words

Read the sentences below and match the underlined words and phrases to their definitions:

- Using bad language in public is socially unacceptable.
 - He has a very bad attitude towards work. The manager wants to fire him.
 - Joey is under-age. He's not allowed to drive yet.
 - On Halloween, many children binge on sweets.
 - Toby took drugs because of peer pressure. He did not want to be different than his friends.
 - In many countries, smoking is banned in public places.
-
- eat or drink too much
 - how you feel about something
 - not allowed
 - something that most people think is "not ok"
 - when a member of a group (usually a teenager) behaves badly because other members influence him/her to behave like them
 - younger than the legal age when you are allowed to do something

3 Find the information

Quickly read the article about teenagers in England and find the information below.

- How many teenagers eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day?
- How many teenagers have tried a cigarette?
- What was this figure in 2003?
- How many teenagers have tried an alcoholic drink?
- What was this figure in 2003?
- In 2003, how many teenagers ate five or more portions of fruit and vegetables?

THE
INDEPENDENT

Teenagers prefer fruit and vegetables to cigarettes and alcohol, survey says

Analysts say smoking and drinking are more and more socially unacceptable among younger teenagers.

- 1 They could be described as the "Good Generation". The age of the bad teenager who drinks and smokes is over, according to new data. The majority of children in England are avoiding cigarettes and also obediently eating their fruit and vegetables.
- 2 Only a small percentage of under-16s have ever tried an alcoholic drink or a cigarette, and almost a quarter now eat the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, according to the Health Survey for England.
- 3 There are a few reasons for this trend. Nowadays, parents have stricter attitudes towards drinking and smoking and there are more public health actions. Also, shops that sell alcohol and tobacco aren't selling to under-age customers as much as before. Analysts also said that cigarettes and alcohol are now more socially unacceptable among younger teenagers, so there is less peer pressure.
- 4 According to the survey of more than 2,000 children in England, only 5 per cent of eight- to 15-year-olds have tried a cigarette, compared with 19 per cent in 2003. And only 17 per cent have tried an alcoholic drink compared with almost half (45 per cent) in 2003.
- 5 The trend for teenage clean living also seems to extend to eating fruit and vegetables, the data shows. Almost a quarter of five- to 15-year-olds (23 per cent) now eat five or more portions daily, compared with just 11 per cent in 2003.
- 6 Rachel Craig, the head of the health survey, says that children are now "rebellious in different ways".
- 7 She added: "The cost of drinking and smoking continues to be high, and there is more checking in shops — it's actually quite hard for children, especially younger children, to buy cigarettes or alcohol now."
- 8 Another survey suggests that parents' attitude has changed. "In the past, parents were more relaxed. They thought, 'Oh well, if they start to drink a little bit it means they won't binge too much'," Ms Craig said. "But now people feel that children under 15 shouldn't drink alcohol at all."
- 9 The UK's Department of Health welcomed the findings. "It is good to see that children are living healthier lifestyles — eating more fruit and vegetables, and smoking and drinking less," a spokesman said.
- 10 "We continue to take action to stop smoking and drinking among young people. For example, shops are unable to display cigarettes and smoking is banned in pubs, clubs and cars carrying children."

Adapted from The Independent, by Chris Green, 26 December 2015

4 Checking understanding

Read the text again and put T (True) or F (False) next to each statement.

1. Parents are more relaxed about alcohol.
2. Shops aren't selling cigarettes and alcohol to under-age customers as much as before.
3. Peer pressure is not a problem among teenagers any more.
4. Children don't rebel anymore.
5. People feel that children under 15 shouldn't try alcohol at all.
6. Shops in the UK are allowed to display cigarettes.
7. Smoking in the UK is banned in pubs and clubs.

5 Describing a trend

Look at the following sentences from the text and match them to the types of trend below:

1. Parents' attitude has changed. (P.8)
2. The majority of children in England are avoiding cigarettes. (P.1)
3. In the past, parents were more relaxed. (P.8)

- a. a past trend or situation
- b. a present trend in progress
- c. a trend that started in the past and is complete in the present

Which tense is used in each sentence?

Look at the sentences below. Decide if each trend happened in the past, started in the past and is complete in the present or is currently in progress. Then complete the sentences putting the verbs in the correct form. More than one answer may be possible.

1. Technology has become (become) more important in our lives.
2. The planet _____ (get) warmer.
3. The number of American households with a television _____ (rise) from less than a million in 1949 to 44 million in 1969.
4. Right now, more people _____ (learn) English than ever before.
5. The internet _____ (change) a lot since the 1990s.
6. These days, more and more people _____ (meet) their boyfriends and girlfriends online.
7. There is more pollution than in the past. The air _____ (become) dirtier.
8. Nowadays, teenagers _____ (eat) healthier food. They _____ (also/do) more exercise.

Think of two trends for each tense.