Reading text: "WHEN ENTERTAINMENT GOES DIGITAL"

Our lives are gradually moving online. We are all digital nomads now, as we can study or work remotely. All we need is an Internet connection!

Entertainment is part of this revolution. We can stream a sports event or a gig with our favourite band to watch when and where we want. Episodes or TV series appear on our screens with a click and we can always listen to our favourite music.

Online entertainment isn't the same as a live show, but it isn't a bad alernative if you live in a remote place or can't leave home. It gives access to everyone, too – well, in theory.

Of course, if you stream a live music festival or a carnival, you don't get the same atmosphere, and you miss the chance to interact with other people and have fun with them.

Discussion: "What do you think of digital entertainment? Do you like to watch concerts or sports events online?"

Reading text: "WHEN ENTERTAINMENT GOES DIGITAL"

Traditional enetrtainment is moving to the Internet. You can take a virtual tour of an exhibition at many famous museums and galleries. Online shows encourage people at home to join in.

During some concerts a singer can interact with fans to select a song for the playlist. Theatres are finding new ways for actors to perform in a play remotely.

Unfortunately, online entertainment is at risk of piracy and that s becoming a serious problem.

When pepole download music, films and TV programmes without paying, the performers don't receive any money. People probably don't think about the artists and musicians not being paid for their work though.

If you buy a board game like "Trivial Pursuit" in a shop, or you go to the cinema, it feels normal to pay. So why do people expect digital entertainment to be free?

Discussion: "What do you think of digital entertainment? Do you like to watch concerts or sports events online?"

Reading text: "WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?"

Secondary schools around the world teach students at least a second foreign language. Languages are part of a good, general education, and a useful skill to have. But that's not all! There are many other benefits, too.

Travel abroad is the most obvious reason. When you visit another country, your experience is better if you can talk to people and people can understand your speeches.

However, you don't have to be fluent, even a beginner can communicate basic needs. If you feel confident enough to chat in the local language, you'll learn much more about the culture and the soul of a place, and you will be able to explain how life works in your country and culture, at the same time.

Moreover speaking two or more languages makes your brain more flexible, and that improves your multi-tasking and concentration abilities.

Discussion: "In your opinion, is English important for computer science?"

Reading text: "WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?"

In our globalised world, languages offer job opportunities. Foreign-languages speakers can communicate directly with colleagues without a translator to interpret what they're saying.

If you use a foreign language at work, it's useful to have strong reading and writing skills. However, most people understand even when your grammar isn't perfect or you spell words uncorrectly!

Did you know that each country has its own style of handwriting? Thanks to digital communication, you no longer waste time trying to understand it!

Companies often choose multi-lingual workers, not only for their language skills, but beacuse they have other interesting talents, too.

Languages make you more intellingent. The brain is the centre of learning and it starts to increase in size just after a few months of lessons. And finally, language learning makes you happy: making progress activates your brain's happiness centre, just as chocolate!

Discussion: "In your opinion, is English important for computer science?"

Reading text: "CAN THE CITY CENTRE SURVIVE?"

City centres are becoming less and less busy. More people are working from home, so fewer people are using an office block. Many residents are moving to greener and quieter areas, and fewer people are visiting shops, because online shopping is more convenient. Every week, we see another shop close on a city centre high street.

How can we stop our city centres from becoming ghost towns?

First, we should make city centres attractive places to live. We need to build new blocks of flats close to office areas, surronded by parks and with basic services nearby.

Attracting visitors is essential, too. An attractive public square is ideal because young and old people can meet there. There should be cultural attractions too, such as concert halls, museums, and public libraries.

To make people feel safe, having a police station nearby is important, too.

Discussion: "In your city, is the centre still a lively place or not? Describe it shortly"

Reading text: "CAN THE CITY CENTRE SURVIVE?"

City centres are becoming less and less busy. More people are working from home, many residents are moving to greener and quieter areas, and fewer people are visiting shops because online shopping is more convenient. Every week, we see another shop close on a city centre high street.

How can we get shoppers to spend money in the city? First, we should make it easy to walk around. A pedestrian area is a safe and convenient way to visit a number of shops on foot, and avoid the dangers of traffic.

Shop owners also need to make their customers' experience more attractive than online shopping.

Finally, we need to improve access to the city centre. More parking lots are not the solution, we need an ecological alternative. Maybe like Amsterdam, where cicling lanes are everywhere, and 38% of urban trips are made by bike.

Discussion: "In your city, is the centre still a lively place or not? Describe it shortly"

Reading text: "THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORTS"

TENNIS

Tennis is a racket sport with two types of games: singles with two players and doubles with four players on the court. Players use a racket to hit the ball over a net and they score points when their opponent can't return the ball. Tennis has been a populr sport for over 150 years. Every year, there is a series of famous international tournaments all over the world.

VOLLEYBALL

This is an indoor team sport, and there's a similar game called beach volleyball. The court has a high net across the centre. It's a fast, energetic sport. Players jump to hit the ball over the net with their hands. Teams win points when the ball hits the floor before the other team can touch it. At the end of the match, teams must win or lose, so they continue playing until there is a winner.

Discussion: "Tell me about any sport you play or have played in the past"

Reading text: "THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORTS"

BASEBALL

This is the USA's national sport. It's an outdoor game, with nine players in a team. They play with a bat, ball and a special glove. Teams take turns at hitting the ball, and then throwing and catching it. When a player hits the ball, he or she has to race between the four bases on the field. Players score points when they have run around the four bases. The team with most runs wins the match.

FOOTBALL

It's an outdoor sport also called soccer. 2 teams of 11 players move the ball with their feet. Only the goalkeeper can touch the ball with his or her hands. The aim of the game is to put the ball in the other team's goal. The team that scores the highest number of goals wins, but games often end in a tie, with both teams having the same score.

Discussion: "Tell me about any sport you play or have played in the past"

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BASKETBALL

A college coach in Massachussets, USA, invented this sport in 1891. In the first game, they used fruit baskets as goals, hence the name. Today, the game is on a rectangular court with a hoop at each end. There are 5 players from each team on court at a time. A match is divided into four periods, and players win points when the ball passes through the hoop.

Discussion: "Tell me about any sport you play or have played in the past"

Reading text: "HOW SHOULD STUDENTS LEARN: IN CLASS OR ONLINE?"

Traditionally, students have lessons in classrooms, face-to-face with teachers. However, for many pupils, online classes are becoming a bigger part of education.

Do they make learning worse or better?

For some students, learning is better online. At home, they have access to the Internet, where they can easily find any kind of information. They can text their teacher when they need to, and can watch video lessons over and over again.

At schools, students cannot decide the amount of time for each topic, at home they can. Moreover they don't need to keep the speed of the rest of the class.

However, distance learning also creates problems. In some subjects, especially sciences, students need to do practical experiments in a laboratory.

For a teacher, hearing or watching students' reactions help with teaching at the correct pace of the class.

Discussion: "In your opinion, is online education a good thing for young students? Discuss it briefly"

Reading text: "HOW SHOULD STUDENTS LEARN: IN CLASS OR ONLINE?"

Traditionally, students have lessons in classrooms, face-to-face with teachers; for many pupils though, online classes are becoming a bigger part of education.

However, evaluating students online is not easy, since they easily look for the answers online.

Online learning also removes day-to-day contact with classmates who can be very annoying sometimes. So, is it better to study with them or alone?

Another consideration is the place of learning: it may be difficult to find a quiet, empty room in the house, and kids on their own can be easily distracted by social media, computer games or TV programmes.

The necessary ingredients for learning are a positive atmosphere, friendly learning pals, and effective learning tecniques. Some students find these conditions online, and some find them in schools.

Perhaps a combination of both works best?

Discussion: "In your opinion, is online education a good thing for young students? Discuss it briefly"

Reading text: "ARE PERSONAL TRANSPORTERS THE FUTURE?"

In cities, a typical journey doesn't take us far from home. Cars are often useless for a trip to the café near our home. Car travel means slow traffic and frequent stops at traffic lights, but not everybody is willing to move around by bike. So what other options do we have to travel around the city?

Years ago the Segway became a clever product. You stood on a board between 2 wheels, riding at a maximum speed of 20 km/h. It didn't need petrol because it had a large battery.

So why did it not start a travel revolution?

The reasons are vary. First, Segways cost around 5,000 £ - too much for a small vehicle. There was nowhere to park them, and you couldn't carry them inside. More importantly there was nowhere to ride them. They were too slow for roads but too dangerous for pavements.

Then, a few years later, people started using a new vehicle: the electric scooter, or e-scooter.

Discussion: "In your opinion, are e-scooters a positive or negative revolution? Discuss briefly"

Reading text: "ARE PERSONAL TRANSPORTERS THE FUTURE?"

A few years ago, the Segway started a new way to move around the city, using personal transporters. At first, they appeared like a clever product.

Then, for many reasons, they became less and less popular, until they were replaced by a new vehicle: the e-scooter, or electric scooter.

E-scooters were smaller, lighter, and easier to ride than Segways. Soon, people were renting them in many cities around the world, and cities themselves were providing free or super cheap e-scooters to share.

During the pandemic, people wanted to avoid closed and crowded spaces, like buses, or undergrounds, thus some bought their own scooters (at around 400£).

Not everything is perfect about scooters, though. They can be dangerous – too slow for main roads and too fast for pavements – and people often park them wildly. However, as for today, they might be the answer to our cities' transports problems.

Discussion: "In your opinion, are e-scooters a positive or negative revolution? Discuss briefly"

Reading text: "HOW TO FIND A JOB IN THE USA"

There are many different job opportunities in the USA. Looking for a job can still be very hard, especially if you are new to the U.S.

Here are some tips to help you find a job.

10. Apply to more than one job at a time

It is important to apply to as many different jobs as you can to increase your chance of being hired. Applying for a job does not mean getting an interview or getting hired. Apply to jobs you know you can and are willing to do.

2. Don't get discouraged

It can take time to find the right job. Keep looking even if you haven't had success. You can ask an employer why you did not get hired. Sometimes you will get honest feedback that can help you make improvements.

Discussion: "Have you ever applied to a job you did not like?"

Reading text: "WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE INNOVATIVE IN BUSINESS?"

In order for a business to survive in today's world, it is important that we regularly review what we are doing and how we are doing it. Innovation is key to increasing profits. There are several ways a company can be innovative; below are two of them.

3. Offering a new product/service to reach new customers

Innovation sometimes means developing a new product that targets a different market. Although video games were often played by boys, in 2006, video games giant Nintendo introduced the game console Nintendo Wii, successfully targeting girls and older customers.

4. Changing the way you provide a service

By looking at the changes to the customer's lifestyle and needs, we sometimes realise that there might be better ways to serve them. Customers who do not have a lot of time might prefer to have their food or their shopping delivered to their homes.

Discussion: "What would you suggest to a company willing to improve their profits?"

§ § - Text number 15 - § §

Reading text: "HOW TO FIND A JOB IN THE USA"

Before you start your job search, gather all the information that will help you understand what type of job you can apply for in the United States.

This can include your:

- **Work history** – the name, dates, and location of where you worked
- **Work skills** – general skills you can use at any job and work-specific skills
- **Education or training** – name and location of the school you attended.
- **Languages** – other than your mother tongue
- **Professional references** – these are people who you have worked with in the past and that can speak positively about your experience
- **Proof you can work in the USA** – documents that show you can work in the U.S. such as a passport, green card, or social security card.

Discussion: "What would you suggest to a person who is looking for a job in Italy?"

§ § - Text number 16 - § §

Reading text: "EMPLOYMENT CENTERS IN EUROPE"

Employment centers are organizations meant to help workers find employment and employers find workers. They may be either private or public. Their services are available to the unemployed, to those who seek different or better jobs, and to employers.

Employment centers also offer services such as job counseling, resume assistance, and access to computers.

In EU countries, the public employment services (PES) are the authorities that connect jobseekers with employers. Although different in each country, all PES help match supply and demand on the labour market through information, placement and active support services.

The following documents are required at the time of subscription:

- identity document
- for non-EU foreign citizens, a valid residence permit
- the curriculum vitae
- for those who have lost their jobs, the last employment relationship concluded.

Discussion: "In your opinion, are employment centers really helpful to jobseekers?"

§ § - Text number 17 - § §

Reading text: "MILLENNIALS AT WORK"

Millennials (those born between the early 1980s and the early 1990s) make up a huge part of our workforce but they seem to lack loyalty to the companies and the leaders they work for. Multinational companies are noticing larger turnover rates of millennials as employee retention rates fall. This report looks at the findings of two large-scale surveys on the mindset of the millennial generation and explores how organisations can strive to address these needs, increase employee engagement and encourage retention.

Organisations and managers wanting to retain millennials should consider:
- monitoring their work–life balance
- creating a flexible work culture
- providing meaningful work
- changing the organisation's goals from being mainly about profit-making to motives that address social concerns and solve wider societal problems.

Discussion: "What's most important for you to be happy at work?

Reading text: "WORK–LIFE BALANCE"

<u>Ronan</u>

I work in a fairly traditional office environment doing a typical nine-to-five job. I like my job, but it's annoying that my commute to work takes an hour and a half each way and most of my work could really be done online from home.

But my boss doesn't seem to trust that we will get any work done if left to our own devices, and everyone in the company has to clock in and out every day.

It's frustrating that they feel the need to monitor what we do so closely instead of judging us based on our task performance, like most companies do these days.

Discussion: "What are the advantages and disadvantages of your working situation? What would you change if you could?"