

Loneliness and teens

Read the following text carefully.

The society today is so different than even what it was 10 years ago. When living in a culture like today, teenagers have the hardest time handling with the pressures put on **them**. Nobody realizes how lonely a teenager can get without anyone there for comfort or encouragement. Loneliness in American teens is becoming more of a problem since so many teens think that **they** can use technology to get friends.

Let us first talk about how a teen can experience loneliness and some of the causes. The biggest thing is not feeling accepted. Nobody wants to be misunderstood or mistaken for. Teenagers strive and live for acceptance by their peers. They will go to extremes just to feel 'cool' enough. Rejection, unpopularity, and depression all can cause feelings of loneliness and mistrust.

Society itself is a harsh thing and **it** can isolate a person of any age by saying that they are weird or using discrimination against them by putting them down and saying that they are not good enough. It is possible to feel lonely in a community because you could have dealt with someone that hurt you and your trust for everyone is gone. Technology is a big thing with teens connecting with each other virtually instead of face to face. The cell phone is a big symbol that all young people can relate to. It gives them a sense of false friendship if addicted to. The cell phone can connect friends many miles apart, but **it** lacks the face to face connection and facial expressions. It is hard to comfort a friend through a phone because you cannot hug them or look into their eyes and tell them everything will be ok.

Technology is of course important, but there needs to be some set of guidelines so teens do not have to feel lonely as much. Also, different communities with people from different backgrounds should come together and work to build up the humanity and tear down the discrimination and cliques.

By [tropicalbaby93](#), Glendale, AZ



A) Say who or what the following words refer to.

1. them -----
2. they -----
3. it -----
4. it -----

B) Find the synonyms in the text.

nowadays	
dealing	
comprehends	
support	
struggle	
colleagues	
cruel	
trust	

C) Find evidence in the text for the following statements.

1. The world today is different from what it was a decade ago.

2. Teenagers nowadays lack comfort and encouragement.

3. Technology is to blame for the problem of loneliness.

4. The number one cause of teenage loneliness is not feeling accepted.

5. Teenagers make a great effort to be part of the group.

6. Sometimes society discriminate teenagers.

7. The cell phone cannot replace face-to-face relationships.

8. Teens are also victims of discrimination inside their communities.

ANSWER KEY

A) Say who or what the following words refer to.

1. *them* refers to **teenagers**
2. *they* refers to **(many) teens**
3. *it* refers to **society**
4. *it* refers to **cell phone**

B) Find the synonyms in the text.

nowadays (**today**)

dealing (**handling**)

comprehends (**realizes**)

support (**encouragement**)

struggle (**strive**)

colleagues (**peers**)

cruel (**harsh**)

trust (**confidence**)

C) Find evidence in the text for the following statements.

1. "The society today is so different than even what it was 10 years ago."
2. "Nobody realizes how lonely a teenager can get without anyone there for comfort or encouragement."
3. "Loneliness in American teens is becoming more of a problem since so many teens think that they can use technology to get friends."
4. "The biggest thing is not feeling accepted."
5. "Teenagers strive and live for acceptance by their peers."
6. "Society itself is a harsh thing and it can isolate a person of any age by saying that they are weird or using discrimination against them..."
7. "The cell phone can connect friends many miles apart, but it lacks the face to face connection and facial expressions."
8. "... different communities with people from different backgrounds should come together and work to build up the humanity and tear down the discrimination and cliques."