

Live Lesson Notes

Generation Gap

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What you will learn in this worksheet:

Useful links

Warm up questions

Useful vocabulary

What causes the generation gap?

How can the generation gap be bridged?

Idioms to talk about young and old people

Model Answers

Useful Links

Information about the **different generations**

<https://medium.com/datadriveninvestor/who-are-boomers-gen-x-gen-y-and-gen-z-d1784f02d25d>

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<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson on the topic of the Generation Gap, you will learn how to talk about how children and old people behave, the relationship between them

[Watch the complete video about this topic of the Generation Gap here.](#)

Warm Up Questions

These are the kind of questions on this topic of Generation Ga that you might find in IELTS Speaking.

Speak out your answer to the following questions!

Should children obey their parents?

Do grandparents look after children?

How should naughty children be punished?

Related topics

Behaviour

A child who behaved badly

Games

A game/toy when you were a child

Mobile phones / apps

Should children have / use them?

A person who is open

Are children or adults more open?

Friends

Stay in touch with childhood friends?

Family

Should children obey their parents?

Do grandparents look after children?

How are the young generation different from their parents/
grandparents?

Useful vocabulary

The **younger generation**

Toddlers (2-3),
Teenagers (13-17),
Adolescents,
Young adults
Millennials (born between 1980-2000)

The **older generation**

A **generation gap**

= *The differences in opinions (actions and beliefs) between one generation and another*

Bridge the generation gap

Adjectives to describe “good” children

- well-behaved
- well-mannered
- well-brought up

Other positive characteristics

Full of energy/ impulsive/ creative/ gregarious/ sharp/ curious/
mysterious/ scholarly/ smart/ hardworking/ possessive/

Adjectives to describe “naughty” children

- badly-behaved
- disobedient
- mischievous
- wayward
- defiant

Other Negative Characteristics

- black sheep
- noisy
- argumentative
- selfish
- picky

Other expressions about naughty children

I was **the black sheep of the family**
= *I was the naughty one in our family*

Be a nuisance
= *be a pain, naughty*

They **make a nuisance** of themselves

I used to **get up to no good**
= *do naughty things, or things I shouldn't do*

Play tricks on someone

To **tease** somebody
= *to make fun of them, and try to make them angry*

I got into trouble

What causes the generation gap?

The gap is **due to** _____

The gap is **down to** _____

The gap arises **because of** _____

New technologies

The development of technology

Prevailing social media

By and large = In many cases = Generally speaking....

- Children prefer texting and communicating via social media
- Their parents may prefer making a phone call or **one-on-one interaction** and **face-to-face conversations**

Globalisation

Rapid changes in society

Changing cultures

Changes in our lifestyles

- Younger generations may travel more and gather (=get) different views
- We also have the influence of different cultures, for example,

some young Brits **are into** Sushi

some young Chinese **are into** Starbucks coffee

Adolescence / Identity

Conflict arises because _____

- Teenagers are struggling to **carve out** (=find) their identity
- They are **going through a transition** stage
- They often **rebel against** their parents' values

A lack of interaction **Differences of opinions**

- Parents busy themselves with work and ignore their kids
- Kids are absorbed by their phones and don't pay heed to their parents

How can the generation gap be bridged?

Pass **down** (to give) values to the next generation

Accept the world has changed, for example,

- Men are no longer the **sole** (=only) bread winners
- Girls can become scientists

Find common ground (things to do together, to discuss together)

Communicate and teach each other

Build stronger **family bonds**

Spend time **with** each other

Have **mutual respect** and more interaction **with** each other

Actively listen to each other

Put your self into each other's shoes

Share ideas

Share hobbies

Give space to others and freedom to be who they are

Idioms to talk about young and old people

Watch the video of Stan the Man and see if you can spot these idiomatic expressions

Back in my day (=when I was young)

At school, we used to **play tricks on** some of the teachers (=do naughty things)

There was **hell to pay**
(= someone was angry and you were in big trouble)

If my father found out, I'd **be in deep trouble** (=a lot of trouble)

If I got **in** my father's **bad books** (=if I got into trouble with him)

He would **come down on me like a ton of bricks** (=punish me harshly)

If my mother found out, I'd really **be in the dog house** (= in big trouble)

These **snowflakes**; they get everything they want (=millennials)

Nowadays - kids **are spoilt rotten** (=spoilt too much)

Tell them to behave and **it falls on deaf ears** (=they ignore it = they pay no heed to it)

They don't **pay the blindest bit of notice** (=they totally ignore it)

We need to **pass down** our values (=give to our children)

Anyway, that's **my take on** the Generation Gap (=my opinion about ...)

Model Answers

How is your generation different from your parent's generation?

A.

First of all, my parents **grew up** during the war, the Second World War, so **they grew up in** very, very **frugal times**, where they had to be careful with money, food, clothes, **nothing went to waste**.

They would be very careful how they spent their money, and so this, these values of being cautious, careful, and **thrifty**, are values that maybe they tried to **pass down to my generation**, but my generation were less thrifty and I think we were, I was growing up in a time in the early 1970s and 1980s where **there was more affluence** in my country and we were spending more money and we had a more **rebellious attitude** to everything.

So, I think, **generally speaking**, my generation is more rebellious and less cautious than my parents' generation.

Describe a time when you saw a child behaving badly in public

A.

This was actually last summer, when I saw a young boy, he **must have been about** 10 years old, playing with his friends but he was **bullying** his friends. It was in the summer time, did I say that, it was in the summer! It was last year,

(Note from Keith: when you make things up, don't change things!!)

and so we were, actually, I was out with my wife, we were **sat outside** at a bar having a drink and the children were playing around in that area, and the parents were **close by**, and I noticed this young boy who was **ordering** the other boys **around**.

He was pushing them a bit and **shouting at** them and clearly **intimidating** them, **against their will**, to do some things.

And I think I had **to draw the line**, when I saw him hitting one of the other boys and **I just lent over to the parents** and said, because I realised they were from the same family, I said, 'have you noticed what they are doing and how they are playing'? The father immediately stood up and was very angry, not with me but with his son, and he went over and **told his son off**, and **that was the end of that**.

But I felt that I had to say something, but it's very difficult situation because you don't want to **interfere with other people's business** and

how they run their families, but I sensed that they weren't aware of what was happening and so yeah I decided to say something.

That was a time when I saw a child **behaving mischievously** in a public place.