



Family Relationships

Reading

- 1 Describe your family to the class. Talk about parents, sisters, brothers, grandparents.
- 2 a) Read the title of the text and the introduction and look at the pictures. What kinds of families are common in 21st century Britain?
Read to find out.

British Families in the 21st century

Not all families are two parents and two children. These days there are many types of family. Here are just a few of them.

The Average Family

There are about 7.7 million British families, and most have one or two children. There are 3.7 million families with one child, 3 million families with two children and a million families with three children or more. The number of families with one child is bigger than at the end of the 20th century, and the number of families with two children is smaller than at the end of the 20th century. The number of large families is the same as in the late 20th century.

CHECK THESE WORDS

type, biological, in need, care, partner, reason, quarter, charity, important



Single-parent Families



The UK has more single-parent families than any other European country. There are 2 million British mums and dads with no partner for some reason, so a quarter of British young people are part of a single-parent family. There are a lot of charities for single parents.

b) Read again and mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Most British children have just one brother or sister.
- 2 There aren't as many British families with two children today as at the end of the 20th century.
- 3 Foster care is only for children and teenagers who are age 17 and under.
- 4 More British children are part of a single-parent family today than in the past.
- 5 Children from single-parent families have more difficult lives than children from two-parent families.

Vocabulary

3 Use words from the *Check these words* section to complete the sentences.

- 1 Foster parents are very for children who can't be with their parents for some
- 2 There isn't just one of family in modern Britain; there are many.
- 3 *Save the Children* is a British that helps children who are in need.

Speaking & Writing

4 Make notes under the headings in the text. Use your notes to give a presentation to the class about families in Britain in the 21st century.

5 **THINK!** What are families in your country like? How are they similar to families in Britain and how are they different? Write a few sentences or a short paragraph on this topic. Read your sentences or paragraph to the class.

Most families in my country have one or two children, like in Britain.

Foster Families

There are lots of foster families in the UK for children who can't be with their biological parents. Foster parents are there for children in need of love and a home. Foster care is for children and teenagers up to the age of 18. Some foster parents also have biological children, and these children can have many 'foster brothers' and 'foster sisters' over time.





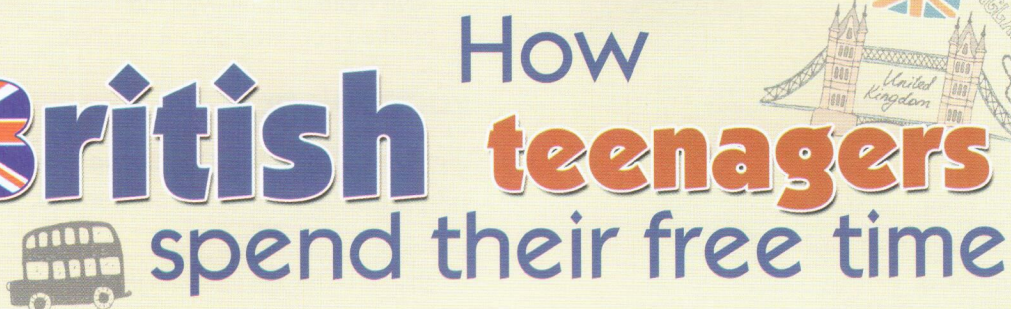
Free-time Activities

- 1 What kinds of hobbies and free-time activities are popular with: *children and teenagers, older people in your country*? In three minutes, make a list, then tell the class.

Reading

- 2 a) Look at the title of the text and the pictures. What do you think the most popular pastimes are for British teens? Read to find out.

How British teenagers spend their free time



Until 2010, the most popular leisure activity for British teenagers was television, but TV now takes second place. Of course, watching TV is not a hobby! Unlike TV, hobbies always make life more interesting and make us feel good. So, apart from TV, what are the most popular pastimes for British teens?

Using social media

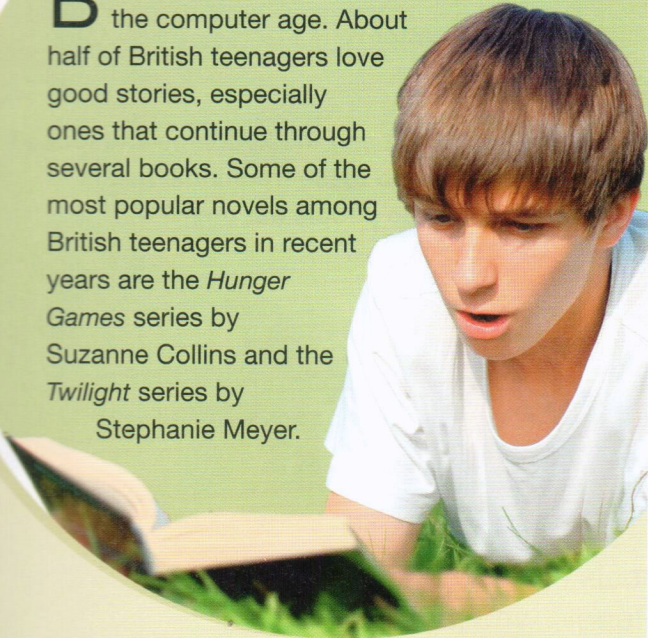
You may say it's not a real hobby, but using social media websites is certainly more interactive than watching TV. It's also the main thing British teenagers do in their spare time. Over half of them – 54% – say it's their favourite leisure activity of all. More than a third of teenagers in the UK say they like using social media and watching TV at the same time.

CHECK THESE WORDS!

real, interactive, main, powerful, attraction, especially, continue, several, recent, contain, video games console, particularly

Reading

Books still have a powerful attraction in the computer age. About half of British teenagers love good stories, especially ones that continue through several books. Some of the most popular novels among British teenagers in recent years are the *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins and the *Twilight* series by Stephanie Meyer.



Playing video games

British teenagers prefer indoor games to outdoor ones. Around 8 million of the UK's 27 million homes contain the most popular video games console, and playing video games is the favourite hobby of 37% of British teenagers. Football video games and driving video games are particularly popular.



b) Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the most popular leisure activity for UK teens?
- 2 What do many UK teens like to do these days while using social media?
- 3 What type of books do British teens like to read the most and why?
- 4 What types of video games are the most popular among British teens?

Vocabulary

3 Fill in: *leisure, social, console, spare, indoor, place, years, age*. Use the phrases to make sentences based on the text, as in the example.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 takes second | 6 |
| 2 time | 7 video games |
| 3 activity | 8 recent |
| 4 media | |
| 5 computer | |

The most popular pastime for British teens used to be watching TV, but now it takes second place.

Speaking & Writing

4 Work in pairs. You are a typical British teen and your partner is a radio presenter. Using the information in the text, prepare questions and answers for a radio interview. Act out your interview in front of the class.

- A: *Hello and welcome to the show!*
 B: *Hi! Thanks for inviting me.*
 A: *Today, I'd like to interview you about how you spend your free time. So, what's your favourite pastime? Is it watching TV?*
 B: *No, it isn't. The main thing I do in my spare time is use social media. etc.*

5 How do typical teenagers in your country spend their free time? Write a paragraph on this topic. Read your paragraph to the class.

6 Compare and contrast British teens' favourite free-time activities to those of teens in your country.