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Classe : Date : 16 juin 2017

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Épreuve de juin 2017 Compréhension à la lecture – Anglais

When young and old meet: Closing the generation gap

Contexte

Ta commune organise des ateliers intergénérationnels, c'est-à-dire des ateliers où des jeunes et des personnes âgées se retrouvent autour d'une même activité. Avant de décider si tu y participeras ou non, tu aimerais savoir quel est l'intérêt de ces contacts intergénérationnels.

Tâche

Lis les témoignages suivants et repère **13** bénéfices de différentes natures pour les jeunes et **7** bénéfices de différentes natures pour les personnes âgées.

Rédige ta réponse en français.

Attention, respecte bien le nombre d'informations demandées car chaque erreur dans des réponses supplémentaires risque de te pénaliser.



When young and old meet: Closing the generation gap

Thanks to advances in science and medicine, people are living longer lives than ever. This is wonderful, but it also poses a challenge: how do we keep our youngest and oldest generations connected? Our reporter investigated this current issue and interviewed five people, young and old, about their sometimes surprising experiences of living or working together and the benefits they experience through the cooperation.

Testimony 1 : Ben Ashworth, 22, from Brixton, UK

I have a wonderful story to tell. My girlfriend and I do not have a washing machine so I usually go over to my 86-year-old grandmother to do our washing. While I was waiting I thought I'd go on the Internet and that's why I opened her laptop. I glanced at the open page and noticed what she had put into Google. My grandmother's request read: *"Please tell me what the word "Instagram" means thank you."* It was so funny! I asked her why she used 'please' and 'thank you' and it seemed she thinks that there is someone - a physical person - at Google's headquarters who looks after the searches. She thought that by being polite and using good manners, the search would be quicker. My conclusion is that young people might be able to teach older ones how to use the Internet but they can certainly still teach us a lot about polite manners.

Testimony 2 : Blythe Moore, 45, organiser of an intergenerational dance class, Western Woodsworth, UK

In our dance school, young and old dance together to break down generational barriers. Some of the participants are 10 years old while others are pushing 90, but the age gap does not seem to matter.

Behind all of this there is a willingness to combat the isolation people experience when they get older. We create connections on a lot of different levels with people. You should see the smiles beam on an elderly person's face when a young person asks them to dance. It brings them energy and joy. So many of them have outlived their families or they simply live too far away to visit frequently that they really feel that they have a new family when younger people visit them. On the other hand, young people also love the interaction with elderly people. Some of them have no grandparents. The opportunity to meet and have close contact with an elderly person is a win-win. Elderly people can tell the young people stories about the past and help them deal with their questions about life.

**Testimony 3: Bryan Frears, 27, primary school teacher in Ashford, UK**

The school I work for organises reading and writing activities aimed at all generations. For example, authors visit the school and give short presentations followed by another activity, like a writing workshop. It is funny to see how older authors are interested in meeting young readers; they ask them many questions about how they feel, what their life is like etc. And sometimes the authors end up writing those stories. Children are a source of inspiration, also because they are full of creative ideas whereas elderly people often help them with spelling or choosing the right word. Such days are not always easy to organise, but it is really worth it because we notice a lot of benefits on both sides when younger and elderly people “work” together. Younger people can often remember details more easily, but elderly people can help them with general comprehension. I am always looking for new elderly volunteers to come and help us at the school. Do not hesitate to contact me if you know someone or if you are interested yourself.

Testimony 4: Eva Briggs, 19, student at Bristol university

I started university last September. I live far away from the university where I wanted to study and it wasn't easy to find a flat. Finally, I joined into a programme of intergenerational housing. I wasn't enthusiastic at first at the idea of living with an elderly woman but after a while I came to realise how much Sarah could bring me. Apart from the accommodation at a very reasonable price, she could help me a lot from the start. She has a lot of stories to tell. I do not have to, but I often keep her company and we spend hours sharing « women's secrets and advice » and talking about our problems and things that concern us. She's like a real grandmother to me and a great listener! Last week when I came back home after a long day at university she welcomed me with a giant slice of apple cake, yum yum! For my part, I usually help her with various small errands: I pick up parcels from the post office, water her plants, carry her shopping bags, walk her dog ... Choosing to live with Sarah was definitely the best idea ever for both of us!

Testimony 5 : Laura Berrick, 82, Saffron Walden, UK

Many older people feel that children don't like them because they're slow or believe they don't have anything worthwhile to talk about. This is totally wrong! In the retirement community where I live, opportunities are created for elderly people to meet the younger generations and it works: it is a chance for everybody, young and old, to learn new skills and new methods of doing things. While we, old people, learn about new technologies (for example how to send a photo via email, or how to use Whatsapp), young people learn to accept people with different capacities and limitations, and to be more tolerant. They become more understanding and patient with people who have disabilities. Interacting with older adults also seems to enable young people to develop communication skills. Some even say that they are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, or to skip school. We old people are positive role models for them and this gives us pride and the feeling of still being useful in society!



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