

What big-screen TV? Kids are more entertained by their smartphones

By San Diego Union-Tribune, adapted by Newsela staff

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — American kids are changing the way they are entertained. They are watching less cable TV. In fact, they do not really even need a television.

They watch Internet videos on their smartphones and tablets instead. YouTube and Netflix are two of their favorite websites.

Kirsten Larsen is 12 years old and Soren Larsen is 15. They do not turn on the TV before school. On weekdays, they get up early and pull out their cellphones. They watch YouTube. This is the way they get the information they need before meeting up with their friends.

Funny Videos Are Popular

Young people have been moving away from television for a number of years, but now the change is a big deal, said Terence Burke of KidSay. The company does reports on the viewing habits of all ages of kids. "Kids still watch TV. They still head to Disney and Nickelodeon," he said. They just do not do it for as long.

Smarty Pants is another company that does similar studies. It has a yearly study on the online behavior of kids ages 6 to 12. It found that eight out of 10 kids who are 6 to 8 years old watch YouTube. Three-quarters of 9- to 12-year-olds use it too.

The same number of 9- to 12-year-olds watch Netflix, the report said. Many younger children do as well.

There is an endless choice of funny videos on YouTube. Some are even educational. As kids get older, they are watching more on Netflix. It offers shows with longer stories. Kids who are 9 to 12 years old often want to watch programs with plots, not just videos.

Stuff Your Age Group Watches

To attract kids and their parents, YouTube, Netflix and even Amazon have special spaces just for kids. Those family friendly zones do well with preschoolers and kindergartners. Older kids want the real thing, though.

YouTube now has a new service. It is called YouTube Red and costs \$10 a month. There are no ads on YouTube Red. Kids can also watch when they are offline. The service will eventually have original programs with YouTube stars.

KidSay reports that YouTube is the most-used cellphone app for boys and girls ages 8 to 11. It is also their favorite app and top website.

Boys' favorite YouTube channels include "JackSepticEye" and "PewDiePie." These channels are part of an important group on YouTube. It has made comedians and people who talk about video games famous.

Young girls have slightly different tastes. KidSay's survey found that one-third of tween-age girls pick Netflix, Hulu and Amazon as their first choice for watching shows.

Favorite Channels In The Survey

YouTube is still a winner with younger girls.

Susan Polizzotto's two daughters Rachel, age 9, and Lauren, 11, watch several YouTube channels. They use their own iPad tablets. The kids watch Stampy's Minecraft videos. They also check out clips on how to paint their nails or do hair.

Their habits are like those of other pre-teen girls. Pre-teens also love video posts, called vlogs. "Shaytards" and "Bratayleys" were among their favorite channels in the KidSay

NEWSELA: What big-screen TV? Kids are more entertained by their smartphones

survey. The vlogs are created by real families. Their real kids are the stars. Young girls like seeing the families in the vlogs. It feels more real to them than what is on TV, Burke said.

Now that more teens have cellphones, the move away from watching cable TV is speeding up. Even many tweens have their own phones and tablets.

Some children as young as 8 years old are also getting their own phones, said Smarty Pants. Most have their own phone by the time they are 12. All the kids know how to work the latest technology to be able to watch what is out there.

Quiz: What big-screen TV? Kids are more entertained by their smartphones

1. How does the information in the section "Stuff Your Age Group Watches" support a MAIN idea of the article?
 - A) It explains why kids are less interested in TV these days.
 - B) It describes popular videos and channels people watch.
 - C) It describes why some kids like to watch videos about real people.
 - D) It explains how many kids watch videos online each day.
2. Which excerpt from the article is MOST important to include in its summary?
 - A) They watch Internet videos on their smartphones and tablets instead.
 - B) On weekdays, they get up early and pull out their cellphones. They watch YouTube.
 - C) Kids still watch TV. They still head to Disney and Nickelodeon," he said.
 - D) To attract kids and their parents, YouTube, Netflix and even Amazon have special spaces just for kids.
3. Read the section "Funny Videos Are Popular." What did the company Smarty Pants discover about kids' viewing habits?
 - A) most 6- to 8-year-olds watch Hulu
 - B) most 6- to 12-year-olds use YouTube
 - C) kids still watch some channels on TV
 - D) younger kids like to watch programs with plots
4. Read the section "Favorite Channels In The Survey." What types of videos are most popular among pre-teen girls?
 - A) videos of funny animals
 - B) videos of comedians
 - C) videos in family-friendly spaces
 - D) video posts from real people

NEWSELA: What big-screen TV? Kids are more entertained by their smartphones

Answer Key: What big-screen TV? Kids are more entertained by their smartphones

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. D

1 Skim the blog post. What are two main kinds of communication?



Talking with Words



That title sounds like I'm repeating myself, doesn't it? Of course, we talk with words, don't we? Well, linguists, the scientists who study language, might disagree. They are interested in both verbal and nonverbal forms of communication.

What is verbal communication?

It's when we use words to communicate. There are different ways to send and receive information with words. To understand information fully, the sender and receiver need to know the same language.

- Verbal input: listening and reading comprehension
- Verbal output: speaking and writing



What is nonverbal communication?

It's when we "talk" without words.

- Nonverbal input: hearing sounds and seeing objects and movements. For example, when someone laughs or hits the table angrily, they are definitely telling us something about their feelings of enjoyment or anger, aren't they?
- Nonverbal output: making facial expressions like smiling, using gestures like waving, and performing actions like turning and walking away.

How do we use different kinds of communication?

There are many combinations of ways to receive and send information. For ordinary conversation, the most important combination is speaking ↔ listening comprehension.

Linguists study such combinations to understand communication. For example, to follow instructions, you need to understand the words you hear or read, and then use action in response. To point at a named object, you need to see the object and understand the word.

—Adapted from *The Oxford Companion to Medicine*, 3rd ed. by Stephen Lock, John M. Last, and George Dunea

2 Skim the blog post again. Write the main idea for each section of the blog post.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

3 Skim the blog post again. Answer the questions.

- 1 What are names of the three sections of the article?

- 2 The section headings have the same form. What is it?

- 3 What are three ways the writer shows important information?

READING: Practice

4 Read the blog post. Answer the questions.

- 1 What do linguists study?

- 2 What is verbal communication?

- 3 What do the sender and receiver of information need to know?

- 4 What is nonverbal communication?

- 5 What do we call information we take in?

- 6 What do we call information we send to other people?

- 7 What do linguists study to understand communication?

- 8 What are the most important ways to communicate for ordinary conversation?

5 Write an example next to each idea from the blog post.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 verbal input | _____ | 5 gesture | _____ |
| 2 verbal output | _____ | 6 action | _____ |
| 3 nonverbal input | _____ | 7 following instructions | _____ |
| 4 facial expression | _____ | | |

6 Complete the outline with information from the blog post.

Main idea	1. _____
I. Verbal	
a input	1. 2. _____ 2. 3. _____
b output	1. 4. _____ 2. 5. _____
II. Nonverbal	
a input	1. 6. _____ 2. 7. _____
b output	1. 8. _____ 3. 10. _____ 2. 9. _____
III. Combinations	1. conversation = 11. _____ + 12. _____ 2. follow instructions = 13. _____ + 14. _____ 3. point at object = 15. _____ + 16. _____