

TEXTO A

Protecting Children from Violence

There has been a lot of violence in the world in the past few weeks and many of our children have been watching it. That's not a good thing. Between mainstream media and social media, violence reaches far past the places and people it directly strikes. Whether it's the latest shooting, the latest terrorist attack, or some other act of violence, television and other media are fond of showing it. The recent rise in cell phone videos shared on social media, often raw and shocking, has increased the prevalence and reach of violence even further. And on top of that, we must not forget the violence in movies and video games, so popular among kids and teens. The last comprehensive assessment of "screen" violence was done in 1998. It found that the typical child will have seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 other acts of violence before middle school. That was 18 years ago, 7 years before YouTube began and 9 years before the first iPhone was released. Just think what those numbers are now. The American Academy of Pediatrics wants people to understand that exposure to "virtual" violence, through news, social and entertainment media, can be harmful for children. Multiple studies have shown that children exposed to violence may be more aggressive, and they may have behavioral problems. They may also become desensitized to violence, which may be the worst outcome. Imagine a generation of children growing up thinking that violence is acceptable and unremarkable. Every person is different; some are likely to be more vulnerable than others. But as the aforementioned Academy points out, given how wide the exposure is, even just a small percentage can end up being inevitably affected.

Adapted from "Protecting children from the dangers of virtual violence". Harvard Health Publishing, 2 August, 2016. < <https://rb.gy/tyychnp> >

QUESTIONS

A.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

a) Media love displaying violent content.

TRUE: "Whether it's the latest shooting, the latest terrorist attack, or some other act of violence, television and other media are fond of showing it."

b) No studies of audio-visual violence have been carried out before the 21st century.

FALSE: "The last comprehensive assessment of "screen" violence was done in 1998."

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

A.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

a) How have mobile phones contributed to the spread of violence?

Cell phones have made easier the spread on social media of videos whose content has not been filtered both further and longer in time.

b) Explain two of the effects that online violence has on children.

According to some studies, these children are more likely to be violent and develop conduct problems. In addition, the worst effect would be that they might consider violence as something common and usual.

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

A.3.- Find the words in the text that mean:

- a) crude (paragraph 1) raw
- b) damaging (paragraph 3) harmful
- c) consequence (paragraph 3) outcome
- d) highlights (paragraph 4) points out

(Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

A.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

- a) If Terry's parents had been aware of (be aware of) how aggressive he was, they would have talked (talk) to a psychologist before.
- b) What about watching (watch) a new series? This one is tougher (tough) than I thought.
- c) You don't have (not/have) to tell the headmaster about the time of the meeting in advance. It is not required.
- d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said. "Why can't we watch this movie?", my siblings wanted to know.

My siblings asked me why they couldn't watch that movie. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

A.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. In your personal opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of letting children play all kinds of videogames? (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

In these times when technological developments have reached most aspects of our lives, it is a common tendency that children have access to many technological items, including introducing them to videogames from an early age. However, how convenient is letting a child playing videogames regardless of the kind?

On the one hand, there have been said to be some positive effects derived from the use of certain videogames in children. However, needless to say that these so-called "educational videogames" have to be adapted to different ages, used with the supervision of an adult and they carry some negative consequences anyway since most experts recommend avoiding the influence of screens on children.

Children should not be subjected to the impact of any kind of videogames, since any game or toy should be adapted to the needs, desires and stages of learning of a child. We must not forget that some videogames are rated for adults because they involve a great deal of violence, bad language or plots which a child is not prepared for.

In short, I certainly cannot see any advantages in letting children play any kind of videogames. In fact, I would rather disconnect them from technological items in general and take them into nature to learn from the beauty of the real world.

TEXTO B

Are Humans Social Creatures?

Neil Ansell had always dreamt of living alone surrounded by nature, yet he became a hermit entirely by accident. Back in the 1980s, he was living in London with 20 other people. Then someone made him an offer he couldn't refuse: a lovely cottage lost in the mountains, with a minimum rent. This was a place so wild, the night sky was a continuous carpet of stars – and the neighbours were a pair of ravens, who had lived in the same tree for 20 years. The negative thing was that the scenic views came with extreme isolation. He lived on a hill farm, miles from the nearest village. He didn't have a phone, and in the five years he lived there, not a single person walked by the house. By the time he returned to civilisation, Ansell had fully adapted to being on his own – and the social world was a bit of a shock. "What I found difficult was the amount of talking and I'm not an antisocial person." Another thing Ansell noticed was that his identity had gradually started to slip away. "When you're alone, you start to lose your sense of who you are, since you don't have an image of yourself reflected in the way that other people react to you. To some extent, when I returned, I had to rediscover who I could be in a social context," he says. Human beings are deeply social creatures. This is obvious from the way we live, but scientists have discovered that there seems to be a link: over millions of years, species with more social contacts tend to evolve larger brains. It turns out this works the other way around, too: a lack of socialising can make them shrink.

Adapted from "How solitude and isolation can affect your social skills," BBC, October 23rd, 2020.

QUESTIONS

B.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

a) Neil Ansell had planned, even before the 1980s, to live alone in the mountains.

FALSE: "Neil Ansell had always dreamt of living alone surrounded by nature, yet he became a hermit entirely by accident."

b) Research has found that the smaller the human brain, the greater the extent of its social world.

FALSE: "This is obvious from the way we live, but scientists have discovered that there seems to be a link: over millions of years, species with more social contacts tend to evolve larger brains."

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

B.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

a) Why did Neil Ansell go to live in the mountains?

He went to live in the mountains because it was cheap, and he could be alone in a beautiful place.

b) Briefly explain two things that happened to Neil Ansell when he moved back to London.

Ansell had to adapt to talking and socializing again. He noticed his identity and sense of who he was had vanished and had to rediscover himself.

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

B.3.- Find the words in the text that mean:

- a) turn down (paragraph 1) refuse
- b) vanish (paragraph 2) slip away
- c) because (paragraph 2) since
- d) connection (paragraph 3) link

(Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

B.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

- a) Recently, scientists have discovered (discover) that the longer the journey, the smaller the brains of polar explorers get (get) in their Antarctic trips.
- b) Lonely people do not have (not / have) the ability to comply (comply) with social norms.
- c) People miss social interactions when they are forced (force) to be isolated from each other.
- d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said:

John: "I don't want to stay in London unless I get a well-paid job."

John said that he didn't want to stay in London unless he got a well-paid job. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

B.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.

Imagine you could live anywhere in the world. What would it be like and why would you choose that place?

(Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

There are certain people that have the opportunity to live anywhere in the world and that are brave enough to do it. If I suddenly had that chance, it would not be an easy decision.

Even though I have always found appealing the idea of living for some time in an exotic Anglophone country, I do not think that I would end up settling in any other place different from the one I am currently living in.

My ideal place to live is somewhere where I can enjoy sunny and colder seasons every year, where you can find job and cultural opportunities, where people are generally warm and inclusive, where anything you may need can be at hand and where public services are developed enough. But, especially, I would never choose to live in a place where I could not see my dearest friends and relatives every day.

In a nutshell, I cannot imagine myself living in any other place than my own current home since it already has all the aforementioned features. And most importantly, I can be surrounded by my family and friends who are an incredible support.