

AN OPINION ESSAY

Young people today spend a lot of time chatting on the Internet. Some people think that this form of communication does not allow young people to develop healthy relationships with others and that it has a negative effect on the development of their character.

Discuss your opinion, supporting it with examples.

The way people communicate with each other has undergone radical changes since the advent of the Internet. Whether at home or at Internet cafés, younger generations spend a great deal of time on the Internet chatting with friends.

It is a fact that chat rooms and instant messaging programmes make it possible for people in different places to communicate with each other easily at any time they want. On the other hand, these means of communication can prevent young people in particular from developing healthy personal relationships.

For instance, communicating through the Internet can lead to superficial relationships that are not always based on honesty, especially when these relationships are not put to the test of daily contact and shared experiences.

Moreover, the ease of Internet communication can negatively affect the character of a young person. On the Net, when someone does not feel like continuing, they can simply log off. As a result of this ease with which they are able to avoid situations that are unpleasant to them, they may become selfish, self-centred and unable to cope with the realities of everyday life.

In short, although the Internet is a convenient means of communication, it should not be overused. Young people should participate in activities that allow them to socialise, make new friends and maintain friendships.

From *Traveller*, Level B2.

