

- A) Typical features of young people
- B) Position of young people in the society
- C) Generation gaps

A) Typical features of young people

Body-building, appearance: fashion, hair, tattoo, piercing, typical features, interests

The youth = nicest time of one's life

Young person: strong, fit, enough energy to face problems, tend to tolerate the faults because of the lack of experience

2 groups of young people:

Teenagers (13 – 19)

young adults (betw. 20 – 30)

Characteristics:

Not children, not adults,
 influenced by friends, less by parents/teachers
 importance of youth culture
 want to live independently
 oppose to older people/generation
 conflicts with parents/teachers
 time – studying
 - free time: friends, music, PC,
 parties, discos

have finished school, get a job to
 earn their own living
 adults – get married, families
 aware of social problems, world-
 wide problems of poverty,
 diseases, pollution, weapons,
 terrorism

Most – live with parents, help them, given some pocket money

- to have own money – part-time jobs (holidays, weekends)
- nowadays – different conditions – different behaviour, attitudes towards society and values
- follow fashion: brand named clothes, sexy styles (spending free time with friends)
 girls- careful about make-up, hairstyle; boys – aftershave or cologne
- access to all modern inventions that make life easier (PC, mobile phone, etc.)
- well educated, experienced, self-confident, know their goals and try to reach them, hardworking
- invest in their health, try to eat healthier meals, work out the gym, play some sport
- many opportunities to study/work abroad - chance to earn money and gain experience

Young families – share chores (husband – to share a part of maternity leave, take care of children)

- try to respect each other

Rights & Duties

Not as strict discipline as it used to be

More materialistic approach to life (desire and search for more and more money),
 reflected in loneliness, depression, drug/alcohol addiction, even suicide
 irresponsible sexual relationships
 family breakups

C) Generation gaps

- Has been a reality for as long as families have been around

Newer world is very different from that one which most middle-aged parents grew up in as children

- young people: revolutionary, often critical of their parents' conservative lifestyle,
- most of the time children think their parents are wrong and worry too much about everything, not even allowing them to come home after dark, they seem to be 'mum's little darling' so friends might laugh at them
- parents don't want their children to try things like smoking or drinking, they don't understand that young people are curious and will mostly try things that are forbidden or make young people feel adults
- parents usually want to protect their kids as long as possible. Their children, on the other hand, feel their freedom is limited and try to revolt, using various ways of protest: ignoring parents, doing the opposite of what is expected, telling lies and/or pretending obedience and respect to parents

Tasks:

- Talk about things you like about your present age. Say which ones you dislike and explain why. If there are some you used to like as a child and dislike as a teenager, explain and give reasons.
- Discuss the problems the young people have to cope with nowadays (drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.).

Role-play – Young People and Their World

You are very negative about the present situation of young people. Talk to your friend about this situation discussing these problems:

- low salaries
- housing difficulties
- difficulties to start a family life
- your idea of leaving the country