



ARE YOUNG PEOPLE MORE SELFISH TODAY?



Jenny: Many believe that young people today are more selfish and I totally support that idea. Kids are always thinking about themselves. The most obvious reason for this is that they spend so much time online but they show no interest in what's happening in their own family. Every young person I know has a computer and a mobile phone and spends a lot of time using them. As a result they are independent and self-reliant but they don't spend as much time with their parents and grandparents as they once did. Families don't talk to each other or do things together very much anymore. What if mobile phones and social networking sites were banned at home on weekday evenings? I think that would force families to talk to each other more and young people would take more of an interest in the lives of their families.

Simon: I agree. I think the lives of teenagers today are very different from those of our parents when they were young. In the past teenagers were expected to do housework and help out at home more, but today kids are allowed to make their own decisions and too often they decide to do what they enjoy and to avoid chores. The main benefit that this has is that teenagers aren't as dependent on their parents as they once were and they can show more initiative. My main worry is that young people grow up only thinking about themselves.

David: What bothers me is not young people but society itself. We are exposed to a society whose values are very selfish and then we're criticised for being selfish ourselves. In the media and advertising we are encouraged to look good, to be assertive and to fight to get the best job or the best lifestyle. It's hardly surprising that kids these days are more obsessed with themselves than their parents ever were. Even if we wanted to be selfless it would be difficult because our society values ambition and personal achievement more than helping others.