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Chatting doesn't make you happy

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

7th March, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Having a serious conversation with a friend can make you happier, but gossiping and general chat can make you less happy. This is what researchers found in a recent study. They investigated the types of conversations happy and unhappy people had. The research team, from the University of Arizona, reported that unhappier people talked about unimportant things and small talk. The happiest people in the tests had twice as many deep and meaningful conversations. They had a third fewer conversations about non-serious topics.

This is an interesting study, but I'm not sure if it will change our behaviour. Everyone loves to chat – it's one of the best things in life. If this is true, maybe people will think more about their topics of conversation. But would it be fun? Chatting about nothing is great fun. Most people also like gossip. I think if everyone started having deep conversations, life would be too serious. Would it be OK to have a meaningful conversation about football? I'm very happy when I talk about sport – that makes me really happy.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Having a | a. in a recent study |
| 2. what researchers found | b. topics |
| 3. small | c. fewer conversations |
| 4. twice | d. talk |
| 5. a third | e. serious conversation |
| 6. non-serious | f. as many |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. This is an | a. be too serious |
| 2. change | b. things in life |
| 3. one of the best | c. about nothing |
| 4. Chatting | d. interesting study |
| 5. life would | e. really happy |
| 6. that makes me | f. our behaviour |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Having a serious conversation _____ make you happier, but gossiping _____ make you less happy. This is what researchers _____ study. They investigated the types of conversations happy and unhappy people had. The research team, from the University of Arizona, _____ people talked about unimportant things and small talk. The happiest people in the _____ many deep and meaningful conversations. They _____ conversations about non-serious topics.

This is an interesting study, but I'm not sure _____ behaviour. Everyone loves to chat – it's _____ things in life. If this is true, maybe people will think more about their topics of conversation. But would it be fun? Chatting about _____. Most people also like gossip. I think if everyone _____ conversations, life would be too serious. Would _____ a meaningful conversation about football? I'm very happy when I talk about sport _____ happy.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Having a (1) _____ conversation with a friend can make you happier, but gossiping and general chat can make you less happy. This is what researchers found in a recent (2) _____. They investigated the types of conversations happy and unhappy people had. The research team, from the University of Arizona, reported that unhappier people talked about unimportant things and (3) _____ talk. The happiest people in the tests had (4) _____ as many deep and meaningful conversations. They had a third (5) _____ conversations about non-serious topics.

This is an interesting study, but I'm not (6) _____ if it will change our behaviour. Everyone loves to chat – it's one of the best things in life. If this is (7) _____, maybe people will think more about their topics of conversation. But would it be fun? Chatting about nothing is great (8) _____. Most people also like gossip. I think if everyone started having deep conversations, life would be (9) _____ serious. Would it be OK to have a meaningful conversation about football? I'm very happy when I talk about sport – that (10) _____ me really happy.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) seriously | (b) series | (c) serious |
| 2. | (a) study | (b) research | (c) exams |
| 3. | (a) tiny | (b) small | (c) little |
| 4. | (a) twice | (b) two | (c) double |
| 5. | (a) less | (b) little | (c) fewer |
| 6. | (a) surely | (b) sure | (c) surest |
| 7. | (a) true | (b) truth | (c) truly |
| 8. | (a) funny | (b) fun | (c) funniest |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) so | (c) too |
| 10. | (a) takes | (b) does | (c) makes |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a iseusro conversation
2. agerlen chat
3. This is what rrehsreesca found
4. unimportant nihtgs
5. etiwc as many
6. a rthid fewer conversations

Paragraph 2

7. an interesting tyusd
8. Everyone veols to chat
9. oscipt of conversation
10. people also like goipss
11. talk about osprt
12. yarell happy

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () as many deep and meaningful conversations. They had a third fewer conversations about non-serious topics.
- () This is an interesting study, but I'm not sure if it will change our behaviour. Everyone loves to chat – it's one
- () and unhappy people had. The research team, from the University of Arizona, reported that unhappier
- () deep conversations, life would be too serious. Would it be OK to have a meaningful conversation
- () about football? I'm very happy when I talk about sport – that makes me really happy.
- () you less happy. This is what researchers found in a recent study. They investigated the types of conversations happy
- () it be fun? Chatting about nothing is great fun. Most people also like gossip. I think if everyone started having
- (**1**) Having a serious conversation with a friend can make you happier, but gossiping and general chat can make
- () of the best things in life. If this is true, maybe people will think more about their topics of conversation. But would
- () people talked about unimportant things and small talk. The happiest people in the tests had twice

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. friend a with conversation serious a Having.

2. a in found researchers What study recent.

3. had Conversations and people happy unhappy.

4. conversations meaningful and deep many as Twice.

5. if change sure will behaviour not it our I'm.

6. I'm if change sure will behaviour not it our.

7. in of life the best It's things one.

8. more Think conversation of topics their about.

9. about is fun Chatting nothing great.

10. talk very about happy sport when I I'm.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100307-chatting.html>

Write about chatting for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

[illegible]

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. CHATTING: Search the Internet and find more information about chatting. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about chatting. Include imaginary interviews with one person who hates chatting and another who loves it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a gossip. Ask him/her three questions about gossiping. Give him/her three of your opinions on gossip. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.