

1) Read the text. Which app can you use to communicate with friends?



2) Read the definition.

Phrasal verb: a phrasal verb consists of two or three parts – a verb + a particle or a verb + a particle + a preposition. The meaning of a phrasal verb is different from the verb on its own. Compare the examples:

Look! A storm is coming.

Look up the word in the dictionary.

↓ ↓
Verb + a particle

3) Find phrasal verbs in the text that mean...

- a) start using a computer system.
- b) search; try to find something.
- c) try to find a piece of information in a list.
- d) phone someone again later.
- e) talk to someone you haven't seen for some time.
- f) discover; learn about.
- g) start something (a business, a product).
- h) make the volume louder.
- i) stop a device from working temporarily.

4) Choose the correct option.

- a) How do you usually **find out/call back** information for your homework?
- b) Which dictionary do you use to **set up/look up** words in English?
- c) Do you **log on/turn off** your mobile phone when you come to school?
- d) When do you usually **catch up with/turn up** friends?

5) Read the text and then tick the correct answer. The book is about a family who...

- a) moved to a new home in another country.
- b) participated in a reality show on TV.
- c) didn't use any gadgets for six months.

The WINTER of Our DISCONNECT
By Susan Maushart

The amazing story of a family who gave up all their electronic gadgets and learnt that 'real life' can be fun!

When Susan Maushart told her family, 'We're going to live without electronic gadgets for six months,' her children Sussy (14), Bill (15) and Anni (16) didn't believe her. But it wasn't a joke. Susan was tired of all the technology that dominated the family home. There were gadgets everywhere – mobile phones, laptops, iPods and games consoles. When her children got back home from school, they did the same thing day after day: they went to separate bedrooms and communicated with friends by text or social networking sites but they didn't really talk to each other at all.

So 'The Experiment' began: six months without gadgets inside the home. When Sussy, Bill and Anni got back home from school, they turned off their mobile phones and they didn't turn on their computers to catch up with friends. How did it go? Well, Sussy found it very hard at first and she went to stay with friends. But gradually they all got used to it and even started to like it!

Anni enjoyed cooking. Bill started playing the saxophone again and Sussy came home when they told her that life wasn't so bad after all. They shared mealtimes again, had long conversations and slept better. They read books, went to the cinema together and played board games with their friends. In the end, they all agreed that it was much better than they expected.

Do you need a digital detox? Then this is a great book for you. I read it last week and I really enjoyed it. Some parts were very funny. I laughed out loud! ☺

Review by Sam, 14



6) Answer.

- a) What decision did Susan make and why?
- b) What did her children think at first?
- c) How did Sussy react?
- d) What did Anni and Bill enjoy doing?
- e) Was the experiment a success?
- f) Does Sam recommend the book? Why?

7) Write T(true) or F(false). Justify your answers with sentences from the text.

- a) All of Susan's children were teenagers.
- b) They didn't have many gadgets.
- c) During the experiment, they could use gadgets at their friends' houses.
- d) They didn't spend much time together during the experiment.
- e) The children thought that the experience was worse than they expected.