

Part 2

For questions 9 – 16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0

W	H	E	R	E													
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The Paradox of Modern Communication

It is a curious paradox that in an age (0) _____ we are more connected than ever before, many people report feeling increasingly isolated. Smartphones, messaging apps, and social media platforms have all contributed (9) _____ an unprecedented level of accessibility. We are able to contact anyone, anywhere, almost instantly. And (10) _____, despite this ease of communication, studies consistently show a rise in loneliness across various age groups.

One explanation often put forward is that while technology facilitates communication, it does not necessarily foster connection. Online interactions can feel superficial, lacking the nuance and emotional depth that face-to-face conversations typically bring. As a (11) _____, people may find themselves surrounded by digital chatter yet starved of meaningful dialogue.

This phenomenon is particularly evident among younger generations, many of (12) _____ have grown up in a digital environment. For them, the act of "liking" a photo or sending an emoji may be a stand-in (13) _____ genuine expressions of empathy or concern.

Compounding the issue is the tendency to curate online identities, presenting idealised versions of oneself. This often leads to comparisons and feelings of inadequacy, as users measure their real lives (14) _____ the polished lives of others. In extreme cases, this can result in anxiety, depression, or social withdrawal.

It would be mistaken to claim that technology is inherently detrimental. Used (15) _____, digital communication tools can enhance relationships, facilitate learning, and even provide emotional support. The challenge lies in learning how to navigate this landscape with intention, making space for authenticity and vulnerability.

Ultimately, it may be a deliberate, conscious effort (16) _____ than constant connectivity — that restores the sense of community many are longing for.

Answers

9 to 10 yet 11 result 12 whom 13 for 14 against 15 correctly/wisely

16 rather