

**Grammar****Expression of quantity**

*A great deal of adolescents nowadays do not conform to that stereotype; it is unfair to label all of them the same.*

*Several of these kids are really committed and involved in charitable causes and volunteering.*

**Use of pre-modifying adverbs**

*My teenage daughters are not even remotely interested in the social media. They genuinely do not care!*

**Speaking Skills****Relativizing/attenuating meaning**

*I would not go as far as to say that they are the most narcissistic or entitled generation ever. But certainly, the social media does not help.*

*That is way too simplistic; these kids are socially aware and environmentally responsible. Writing them off as these privileged, spoiled brats is going too far.*

**Idioms****To have a sob story**

*(To come up with a sad experience so as to generate empathy)*

*I see all this exploitation on the social media of people saying how sad they feel about this and that. And it is like, "stop it, we all have a sob story".*

**A flash in the pan**

*(Sb whose success/repercussion is ephemeral)*

**Poster child**

*(The symbol/role model of a generation or cause)*

*Yes, we all have seen all these poster children come and inspire the youths and all have turned to be a flash in the pan. No one remembers them two years later.*

**To have a go at someone**

*(To berate/ to criticize sb harshly)*

*I think the amount of vile comments that Greta had to undergo is just ridiculous. Everyone was having a go at her, the poor kid.*

**Key Concepts****Virtue Signaling**

*Posting about one's good intentions/support of good causes on the social media to gain admiration and display moral superiority.*

**Snowflakes**

*Derogatory term used by previous generations to refer to Millennials and Generation Y-ers, perceived as feeble, emotionally vulnerable and entitled.*

**Safe Spaces**

*Places free of discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender, race, or sexual orientation. Often found in public institutions and school premises.*

**Phrasal Verbs****To shy away (from sth)**

*(To evade/avoid something)*

*I think the spirit that underlies adolescence is being too idealistic, too dreamy, shying away from reality.*

**To shoot up**

*(To grow/get taller/bigger very quickly)*

*Nah, the problem is that all of the sudden, kids shoot up and go from little boys to almost men and are full of hormones.*

**To toughen up**

*(To become more resilient)*

*The thing is that there is way too much exposure about how teenagers feel, how they are going to experience this or that, as if they were on the verge of breaking down. They just need to toughen up, period.*

**To fit in**

*(To be accepted among one's peers/to belong in a group)*

*Adolescents are so desperate to fit in, that they will do whatever it takes, smoking, drinking, premature sex...*

**Vocab****Nouns and noun phrases**

Adolescent turmoil  
Body Image  
Boomers  
Generation Xers  
Generation Y/Z  
Emotional angst  
Emotional intelligence  
Immediate vs. delayed gratification  
Interpersonal/intrapersonal Intelligence  
Moral high ground  
Moral obligation  
Outlet (for sb's anger/creativity/need of self-expression)  
Peer pressure  
Self-absorption  
Teenage angst  
Teenage pregnancy  
Temper tantrum  
Victimhood  
Wallflower

**Verbs and verb phrases**

To anguish (over something)  
To channel (one's aggression/energy)  
To come of age  
To emote  
To gripe (i.e.: complain) about something  
To overreact  
To rebel (against authority/rules...)  
To revere/worship/venerate (youth/wealth...)  
To seek for one's identity  
To seek validation

**Adjectives, Collocations and Adverbials**

Coddled  
Conflicted (to feel conflicted about something)  
Confrontational  
Disengaged  
(Self) Entitled  
Morose  
Narcissistic  
Oversensitive  
Resilient  
Self-centered  
Self-interested  
Suicidal tendencies

- Every generation thinks they are having/had a harder time than the previous/current generations, and each of them is right in their own way. Agree?
- Adolescence has historically been portrayed as a *troubled period* in life, regardless of the era (think of Romeo and Juliet, the Romantic literature of the 18th Century, classic Hollywood films, etc.). Have you got any idea of why this is?
- Youth, on the other hand, has for a long time been *revered/praised/worshipped*. (Being young is regarded as a virtue in its own right, many consumer products and popular culture items are advertised to appeal to the youths...). Is there any intrinsic value to being young?
- Is it difficult for members of different generations to fully understand each other?
- What would you say are the defining traits of your generation (*Boomers, Generation x, Millennials, Generation Y*)?
- The word "*millennial*" has an almost negative connotation to it. What are the stereotypes associated with it? Do you think it is just?
- British motivational speaker Simon Sinek even defined them as "*coddled, entitled, self-centered, and narcissistic*". Is that just a cliché?
- Every generation has their own *Poster Child*. Last year, it was the case of Greta Thunberg. Can you think of more examples? Why are they never too long-lasting?
- Some reports are raising awareness about the unusual high prevalence of emotional disorders in today's youth (anxiety, depression, dissatisfaction...). Can you think of any explanation to this?
- In these modern times, there seems to be a compulsion in people to emote way too much on the social media and share personal stories regarding depression, sadness, anxiety, despair, and general dissatisfaction. Do you agree?
- Very often, when a celebrity dies (artists, politicians, sportspeople, etc.) many on the social media tend to overreact and *mourn/grief* their death disproportionately (even those who barely were acquainted with them). Can you think of any reason for this?
- "Today's youth is more concerned about validation on the social media from people they will never meet than with compliments received in real life". Is this true or rather *blown out of proportion*?

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