## We have simple lives

Most Americans would die without a car (or at least they think they would) The Amish don't have cars, they use horses. They don't have television, either. In fact, they don't have electricity. They don't need it because they don't have radios, computers or anything electrical at all. Some people might feel sorry

for them or think they are mad but this is the way that the Amish have chosen to live. They think we're the weird ones.

#### Separate lives.

Amish people try to be as simple as possible. Modesty, family and community are the most



important things to them. They don't want to be a part of the modern world because it is too complicated and corrupt. They live independently in their own community. They even have their own schools which only have one or two classrooms. They learn reading, writing, math and morals. The big difference from regular American school is that they learn nothing about the world outside their community and they do not continue their education beyond eighth grade. The Amish do not think their children need more school education after the age of 13 because they will either do farm work, carpentry or help with the family business. In 1972, the US Supreme Court allowed them to stop school at 13. Like animals in the zoo, Amish people are not easy to interview. They are very private people and they don't like people taking them photographs. They say photographs steal their souls and are a sign of vanity. The biggest Amish community in the USA is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where there are 18,000 Amish people. In the summer it is visited by millions of people. One Amish teenager said he felt like an animal in a zoo. Some visitors shout things such as "Why are you so backward?', laugh at their clothes or knock their hats off as a joke. They must feel angry when they are teased, but

1

demonstrating anger and violence are against Amish beliefs.

#### Fashion is vanity

Unfortunately for the Amish, their appearance is perfect for photo-hungry tourists. They look like they are from a film about the eighteenth century. The women are not allowed to cut their hair, wear jewelry or make up. They aren't even allowed to wear clothes with buttons because buttons are too fussy. Men have to wear black suits and socks with a plain shirt.

#### Changing with the times

The Amish are a religious group that was started in the 1720s. They are united by their beliefs. Many people can respect that but can't understand how the Amish can live the way that they do. They are frequently asked why they make life harder for themselves and when they will modernize themselves. In truth, most Amish communities now have one telephone box for emergencies and perhaps one tractor for very heavy work. Communities often have meetings to discuss whether to accept a particular aspect of the modern world and what effect it will have on them. The young Amish are inevitably curious about things outside their community. Some occasionally listen to music or even try in-line skating (using a bicycle is forbidden because they travel too fast), but when they confirm their beliefs at age thirteen, they promise to accept Amish rules and reject such things. Only one in five people leaves the Amish community. The Amish say this shows that people enjoy living the way that they do.

#### Adapted from *Speak Up* (RBA Revistas)

2

### TATTOOS

Cher has one Melanie Griffith has two, one on her bottom and one on her leg. And Sean Connery had to wear long sleeves in the James Bond films to hide his.

These celebrities are just a handful of the millions worldwide who have decided to make themselves a walking work of art. People have been getting tattoos for thousands of years. Allen got his tattoo when he was just twelve years old. He did it himself - tattooed a deck of cards just above his right wrist using ink and one of his mother's needles. Now he runs one of the oldest tattoo parlours in the United Kingdom. Customers come from all over the world to have Allen make his mark on their bodies.

Getting a tattoo is fairly straightforward. The customer picks a design from one of the



hundreds on Allen's walls or in his books. Allen cleans the area to be tattooed and stencils the design onto the body. Then he gets to work. He does an outline of the design first, using an electric needle worked by a foot pedal. The needle jabs into the skin repeatedly, leaving ink under the surface of the skin. According to Allen, it feels a bit like a bee sting. He then colours the design with a similar machine - though this one can have as many as fifteen needles. When he's finished, he puts a dressing over the area, which by now is bleeding

freely. It takes about two weeks to heal fully. Some designs take weeks to make, since only a small area can be done at one sitting.

People have a few fears to overcome before getting tattooed. One is AIDS. Drug addicts who share needles or use dirty needles are at high risk of catching the AIDS virus from an infected needle. What precautions does a tattooist have to take to protect his customers from AIDS? "*I use a needle once, then sterilise it. My sterilisation equipment is the same as a dentist's. It's impossible to catch AIDS like this,* " says Allen. He says the threat of AIDS hasn't affected his business.

The other fear is of needles and the pain they can cause. Allen says people can get anxious, especially if it's their first tattoo. *"I've had people sit in that chair and shake. I haven't touched them.* 

#### One of my customers even fainted onto the floor when I started up the machine!"

A big man with a big laugh. Allen sees himself as an artist, and he has a library devoted to his profession. There's no part of the body he hasn't decorated except for the face *"I won't do faces. It gives tattooing a very bad image. Anyone who wants a face tattoo is an idiot."* He also refuses to do necks and hands unless the area is already partly tattooed. His basic rule is not to tattoo any area of the body that cannot be covered up.

Most tattoos are fairly standard. Daggers, animals and exotic birds are always popular. But Allen has done some strange jobs. One man wanted a washing machine on one shoulder and a hair dryer on the other. Another had an eye done on the sole of each foot for when he was sunbathing. Tattoos seem to go in and out of fashion, depending on the season and the sex of the person getting the tattoo. Allen is busiest in summer - people show more their bodies in good weather.

28-year-old Lee Morton got a motorbike tattooed on her shoulder two years ago. Why? "I've always liked tattoos, especially well-done ones. I thought about it for a long time, but I didn't know anywhere that could definitely do a good one" For Lee, getting the tattoo was more painful than she expected. "On a scale of one to five, it gets a four. It feels like very deep scratching. I had a motorbike because I wanted something different."

A tattoo is best appreciated by other people. The owner only sees a reflection of the tattoo if it's on their back, and only upside-down if it's on the front. Does Lee worry that her tattoo might have a negative effect on others? "*Well, I certainly wouldn't show it at job interviews. But generally, people like it. They come up and ask where I got it. I don't regret having it done at all, but I don't want any more. One is enough*" If Lee gets tired of her motorbike, she'll find it's hard to get rid of it. Tattoos can be removed with a laser and other methods, but it can be painful and expensive. And most leave some kind of scar.

If you are thinking of getting a tattoo, you will have to be eighteen in most countries. And remember that a tattoo is for life.

From *Today* (Bayard Magazines)

#### BRITISH EDUCATION: THE WAR ON BULLYING

Your schooldays are supposed to be the happiest days of your life, but for the victims of bullies each day can bring misery and terror. Every school has its bullies – children who enjoy humiliating or intimidating their fellow pupils – and most British children will, at some stage of their school life, be bullied, or themselves act as bullies.

A series of recent tragedies - children driven to suicide - has created a new determination to confront bullying. Camilla Barber describes the scale of the problem that must be faced: "We did a survey with 4,000 children aged between 5 and 16, and we found that 68 per cent of the children had been bullied at least once or had experienced some particularly bad incident; of these, 5 per cent of the students felt that it had affected their lives to the point that they had tried suicide, had run away, had refused to go to school or had been chronically ill. With our helpline, we get around 16,000 calls from desperate parents. There have been a number of recent cases which have shown the extent of bullying. In July a boy of 15, here in the UK, hanged himself because he was being bullied."

This is a situation that the British government is determined not to tolerate. In 2000, the "Don't Suffer in Silence" programme was introduced and, according to Professor Smith, it is now bringing results. It can reduce bullying up to 50 per cent by applying a range of techniques. They include bully courts, in which pupils themselves decide punishment for bullies. To develop these strategies, psychologists like Professor Smith are, for the first time, applying scientific analysis to the phenomenon and this new area of research is providing more understanding of who bullies and why. Some of this knowledge is surprising. Professor Peter Smith says : "You might think that the bully is a sort of rather stupid person, an unintelligent thug. Well, in fact some bullies are quite clever and socially skilled, but they're socially skilled in manipulative ways; they are good at organising a gang and choosing the best way to hurt someone. Not all bullies, of course, but some bullies are quite like that, especially the leaders of gangs.

The bully's motivation is also very varied. There could be direct benefits, I mean, some bullies extort money; for example, there was a well-known suicide in Japan due to bullying, where the child had borrowed and stolen thousands of pounds from his family to pay a gang of bullies. Other bullies seem to get status, especially in secondary schools, from showing their power over the others. And then maybe there's another reason for some bullying children: they have been bullied at home and , in turn, they bully others to regain some self-stem by showing that they can be tough." Professor Smith and his colleagues are trying to discover as much as possible about bullies. Future generations should have more chances to have happy memories of school. But the war against bullies will never end in absolute victory. Unfortunately, new technology is already putting in the bullies' hands new weapons. As Camilla Barber explains: "There's the traditional ways: physical, emotional, psychological bullying, like racial and sexual bullying; but there's also cyber-bullying, which is becoming more and more popular - kids bullying each other by sending abusive text messages or e-mails. Therefore, we need to come up with new solutions to combat the new forms of bullying."

#### FICTIONAL BULLIES

The archetype of the British bully is Flashman, the sadistic upper-class villain of "*Tom Brown's Schooldays*", a classic of British literature. Like most bullies, Flashman is a coward. One of the most terrifying is Jack, a character in William Golding's *"The Lord of the Flies"*. But the classic British bully for our generation is Draco Malfoy, who persecutes the hero Harry Potter in JK Rowling's best-selling novel.

(By Piers Grimley Evans. SPEAK UP – RBA Revistas)

#### READ THE TEXT AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER

- According to the article, bullying is ...
  - 1. widespread in British school life.
  - 2. outside most people's experience of British schools.
  - 3. only found in literary accounts of school life.
- According to the survey, how many children have been bullied at least once?
  - 1. more than one third.
  - 2. over two thirds.
  - 3. less than two thirds.
- The problem of bullying in the UK seems to be...
  - 1. having more serious consequences.
  - 2. decreasing in seriousness.
  - 3. accepted by the government.
- "Bully courts" are a new form of punishing bullies in which...
  - 1. the parents of bullies decide on a suitable punishment for their children.
  - 2. the teachers meet to discuss the appropriate punishment for bullies.
  - 3. the students themselves decide on the best punishment.
- Professor Smith believes that bullies...
  - 1. are always stupid.
  - 2. are always born leaders and need to be in power.
  - 3. are usually manipulative but there are different reasons for their behaviour.
- According to Camilla Barber, bullying has changed recently because...
  - 1. both girls and boys can be bullies.
  - 2. the punishments are harder for bullying.
  - 3. there are new means to bully people.

#### STEPHEN HAWKING

"My goal is simple. It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists"

This physicist and cosmologist has done his best to carry out his "simple" task. He has also tried to bring greater understanding of the universe to the rest of us as well. His first book, *"A Brief History of Time"*, an attempt to present topics such as black holes to the mainstream public, is one of the best-selling books of all time. *"Black Holes and Baby Universes"* followed that monumental success. His latest publication, *"The Universe in a Nutshell"*, succeeds in bringing theoretical physics down to the level of comprehension of a non-scientifically trained audience.

At the age of 60, Hawking has now outlived his life expectancy. The majority of people who, like him, suffer from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) die within 18 months of diagnosis. Instead of regretting the things he cannot do due to his illness, he is an indefatigable researcher, prolific writer and frequent lecturer.

Stephen William Hawking was born in Oxford on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1942 (People often think he is American since his voice synthesizer emits an electronic voice with an American accent). He began his higher studies in physics at University College, Oxford. He first noticed that he was getting clumsy during his third year of studies, even falling down inexplicably a couple of times. Later on, at Cambridge (where he was conducting research in cosmology), his father sent him to a specialist. After his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Hawking was diagnosed as an atypical case with neuron disease, which was getting progressively worse. Although he didn't know if he was going to live long enough to finish his studies, Stephen returned to his work at Cambridge.

"Before my condition had been diagnosed, I had been very bored with life," he says. But then he had a desire to contribute something good to the world. "I found, to my surprise, that I was enjoying life in the present more than before." He began making progress in his work and, at the same time, he got engaged – He and Jane Wilde were married until 1990, and raised three children together. In spite of his deteriorating physical condition, Hawking was able to feed himself and get in and out of bed until he was 32. He lost his voice in 1985, at the age of 43, but now he communicates via a computer keyboard and a voice synthesizer.

Throughout a life of dedication to physics and cosmology, Hawking has made some of the most important contributions in modern scientific thought. In fact, he is a fellow of the Royal

### ALS

ALS is a fatal and , for now, incurable disease characterised by progressive muscle weakness. Its diagnosis may take several months. Initial symptoms can include tripping, stumbling and falling, loss of muscle control and strength in hands and arms, difficulty speaking, swallowing and breathing. Fifty per cent of ALS patients die within 18 months after diagnosis. Only 20 per cent of ALS cases survive five years and 10 per cent live longer than 10 years. At least 10 per cent of ALS cases are hereditary and the cause of it is still unknown, although a higher incidence of ALS is correlated with exposure to agricultural chemicals. Men are more likely to get ALS than women; older people are more likely to get it than younger people. It does not affect the mind and, in most cases, even when the patient is totally paralysed, the mind functions normally. There are rare cases where the disease progression stops. In the majority of cases, ALS patients die painlessly and peacefully, often in their sleep.

From *Speak Up* (RBA Revistas)

### ACTIVITIES

#### 1-Match these words and phrases from the text to their meanings

- Carry out a-will probably (do something)
- Mainstream b-member (of a society or institution)
- In a nutshell
  c-knock your foot against something and fall or nearly fall

e-in a few words

f-during (all his life)

g- typical / normal

- Indefatigable d-do, perform
- Researcher
- Clumsy
- Throughout
- Fellow
- Trip
- Stumble
- Swallow
- Be likely to

awkward way,so that things are often knocked over or broken

I-this word describes a person who moves in a careless,

j-make something go down from your mouth into your stomach

k-someone who studies something and tries to discover things

h-put your foot down awkwardly while you're walking

i-this word describes someone who never gets tired

#### 2-Complete these sentences with information from the text

1.	Hawking's objective is to		
2.	His books are successful because		
3.	Hawking has lived		than he was expected to.
4.	People usually think that Hawking comes from the USA because		
5.	Heto	Jane Wilde after he was diag	nosed as an ALS patient.
6.	Until he was 32, he didn't need help to		
7.	He can communicate thanks to		
8.	If you are exposed to agricultural chemicals, you're more likely to		
9.	Most ALS patients die without	while	

#### 3-Fill in the gaps with words or phrases from the text

- He didn't get good marks although he did \_\_\_\_\_\_ at school.
- We tried to save the climber, but we didn't \_\_\_\_\_ and he died.
- She \_\_\_\_\_\_ some mistakes she made when she was younger.
- They were late for work \_\_\_\_\_\_ a traffic jam.
- In spite of his \_\_\_\_\_\_, Hawking continued his work at Cambridge.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ on a stone and fell down.
- You have to drink water to \_\_\_\_\_\_ that pill.

## BRITISH EDUCATION SPECIALISING YOUNG

El sistema educativo británico, que empieza a los cinco años, y excluye a Escocia, funciona por 'niveles' y 'grados'. Allí el vocablo grado es sinónimo de nota.

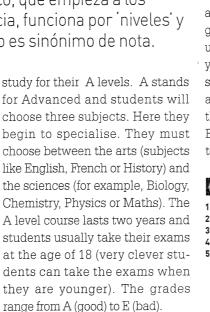
his month we look at the British education system. By Britain we mean England, Wales and Northern Ireland; Scotland has a different system.

Children usually begin elementary or 'primary' school at the age of 5. At the age of 11 they will go to a secondary school. Between the ages of 14 and 16 students take exams called GCSEs. GCSE stands for<sup>1</sup> General Certificate of Secondary Education. Students are graded<sup>2</sup>: the best result is A-Star, after which there is A, B, C, D, E, F and G. The GCSE system was introduced in the 1980s. Before then these exams were known as O levels. O stands for Ordinary. O levels still exist in some former<sup>3</sup> British colonies, like

Pakistan and Bangladesh.

#### ALEVELS

Students take GC-SEs in about 10 subjects<sup>4</sup>. After GCSEs students will then



#### FURTHER EDUCATION

After A levels students leave school and can go to university. Universi-



ties choose students on the basis of an interview<sup>5</sup> and their A level grades. University degree courses usually last three years. At the end you receive your degree. If you study the arts subjects, you receive a B or Bachelor of Arts. If you study the sciences, you receive a BSc or Bachelor of Sciences. Now it's time to look for a job.

#### GLOSSARY

1 TO STAND FOR: significar 2 TO GRADE: evaluar 3 FORMER: antiguo 4 SUBJECT: asignatura 5 INTERVIEW: entrevista



LANGUAGE LEVEL: BASIC

## AMERICAN EDUCATION Advancing by Numbers

El sistema educativo de Estados Unidos funciona diferente al británico. Los niños empiezan la escuela a los seis años, y 'grado' se refiere al año académico.

n the other language article we looked at the British education system: now let's look at its American counterpart<sup>1</sup>.

#### MAKING THE GRADE

The first word you need to understand is grade, which can be confusing. In Britain a grade refers to an exam result, such as A (very good), B (good), C (OK), D (not that good) and E (pretty bad).

In America, a grade refers to an academic year. Very small children begin school in the 1st grade at the age of 6. When they are 7, they move up into the 2nd grade. They will change grade every year: this continues until the 12th grade, which is completed at the age of 18.

#### ELEMENTARY

Students in North America study at a series of schools. They enter the 1st grade at elementary school. The system in the United States can vary from state to state, but generally students will enter middle school, or junior high school<sup>2</sup>, in the 6th grade. As with secondary schools in other countries, this is at the age of 11.

#### HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

Students move on to high school in the 9th grade, at the age of 14. The first year is called the Freshman<sup>3</sup> Year.



This is followed by the Sophomore Year<sup>4</sup> (10th grade), the Junior Year (11th grade) and Senior Year (12th grade).

On completing<sup>5</sup> their Senior Year, students, who are now aged 18, receive their high school diploma.

This is also known as high school graduation. They are now ready to go to university or college. Academic standards<sup>6</sup> at colleges vary immensely and so students are selected on a series of tests known as SATs. SAT stands for Scholastic Aptitude Test or Scholastic Assessment Test.

#### GLOSSARY

1 COUNTERPART: equivalente 2 HIGH SCHOOL: instituto 3 FRESHMAN: estudiante de primer año 4 SOPHOMORE: estudiante de segundo año 5 ON COMPLETING: al acabar 6 ACADEMIC STANDARDS: nivel académico

# Technology It has changed our lives!

Twenty years ago, technology was very different. Could you imagine living without computers, mobile phones and the internet?

ould you like to live on a desert island? Fans<sup>H!</sup> of the American TV series *Lost* probably would. But could you live without today's technology? Imagine, no computer, no phone and no internet. Suddenly<sup>H!</sup> it doesn't sound like fun!

#### **Technology is important**

We do many things with technology. It would be difficult to live without it. You

> Hi! I'm Bill Gates

probably own some form of technology: an iPod, an Xbox, a mobile phone or a computer. Of\* course, the American companies\* who make them are very powerful\*.

Apple, Microsoft, Google and Facebook are four of the most successful companies in the world. They have changed the way we live. But what makes these companies so popular?

## Microsoft has made computing easy

When Bill Gates and his friend Paul Allen created Microsoft in 1975, their dream\* was to have Microsoft software\* in every home. Today, that dream is almost a reality: Microsoft Windows is on nearly every PC in the world. Windows made PCs easy to use by introducing icons. But Microsoft has been accused of having too much power\*. Bill Gates, the richest man in the world from 1995 to 2007, isn't worried\* about that!

Did you know? Microsoft Word is used by 500 million people! Thanks\* to Apple, technology is cool! Apple invented the iPod, the iPhone, the Macbook and now, the iPad. Apple products are designed\* to look good, and are easy to use. The Apple iPhone has revolutionized mobile phones. Now phones are not just for talking. They are for surfing the internet, listening to music, making videos and watching TV! It's not surprising that this year, Apple was named the World's Most Admired Company. **Did you know?** 

Apple was created by Steve Jobs and two friends in 1976... in his garage!

## Facebook has given us more friends

It's easy to create a Facebook page. You can share\* your news, photos and videos with your friends and family. Facebook has 500 million users\*. But why is it so successful? Probably because we don't just want to hear what our friends are doing - we want to see it too. Facebook has been criticized for showing users' private information. It's also difficult to delete\* your account\*. But it's still the easiest way to stay\* in touch with your friends!

Did you know? Facebook was created by Marc Zuckerberg in 2004 in his bedroom at Harvard University.

Hil I'm Mark Zuckerberg

## Google has changed the way we look for information

Now, when people need information they don't go to a library\*... they go on Google! It's the most popular search\* engine on the internet, and processes more than one billion\* searches\* every day. Google was started by Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 1998, when they were at Stanford university. Their mission was to "organize all the world's information and make it accessible".

Did you know? Google is worth\* \$150 billion!

"Fans of the American TV series Lost probably would" Here the sentence ends because it is not necessary to repeat the whole verb again, in this case "would like to live on a desert island".

Hi! We're

Larry Page

and

Sergey Brir

#### "Suddenly it doesn't sound like fun"

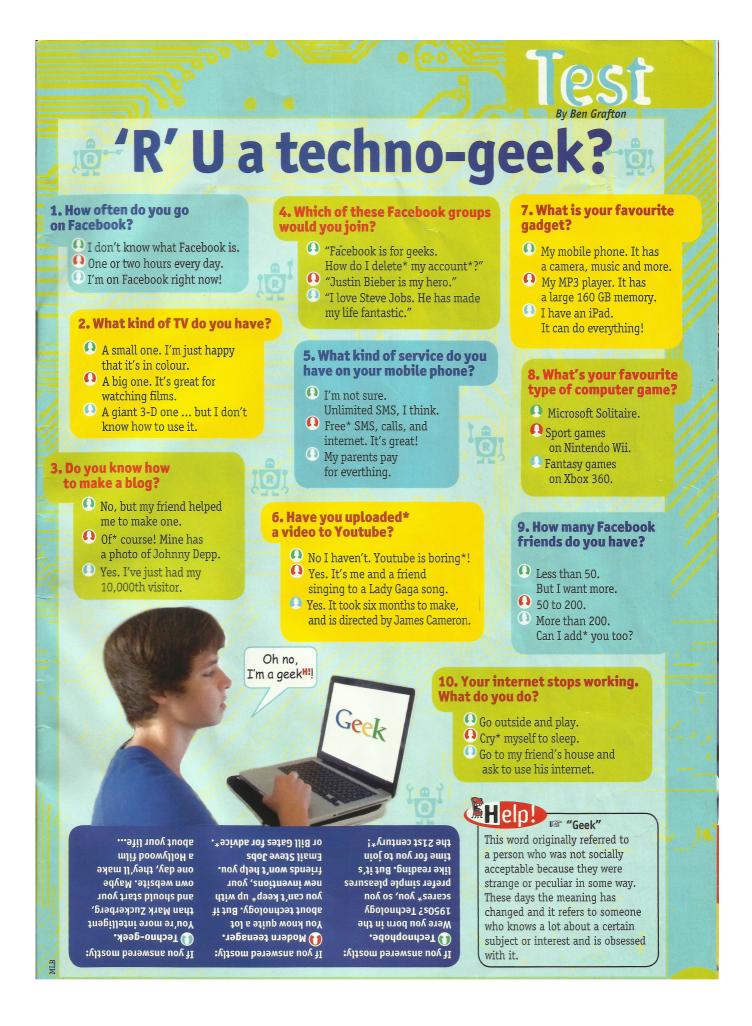
This is an expression we use when a situation appears to be difficult or not very pleasant. So, in other words, a world without technology is probably boring.

"Gadgets" originally referred to small, mechanical inventions that were clever or unusual. These days a gadget is more usually an electronic device that can do impressive things.

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From I Love English (Bayard Magazines)