



# DO YOU ZOOM?

**BEFORE YOU READ:**

During lockdown\*, how did you stay in contact with:

- Your family?
- Your teacher / class?
- Your friends?

Which of these video-calling platforms do you know? Which do you use?

- Facetime
- Houseparty
- Skype
- Microsoft Teams
- Zoom
- WhatsApp

## It's where we learn, work and party!

Houseparty, WhatsApp, FaceTime, Skype, Teams, Zoom. During lockdown\*, video-calling became part of our daily lives. We used video-calling apps to chat to family and friends, have lessons, celebrate birthdays, join\* gym classes, host\* quizzes (and more quizzes!) – and even go on dates\*. One platform\* became particularly popular: Zoom.

**Zoom: the advantages**

Why Zoom? Teenagers were some of first to adopt the app. "None of my mates use Facetime and Skype," says Ben, 16, from Bath – who hosts Zoom parties from his room. "We were bored of those years ago!" Zoom also has features like a filter\* that makes

your skin look clearer and you can even to change your background. "I love that I can hide my messy\* bedroom!" says Amy, 15.

**Zoom: the idea**

Also key to Zoom's success is its founder\* and CEO\* Eric Yuan. He was inspired when he was 18:

**ZOOM SCHOOL:** A teacher connects with her class on the video-calling app.

"When I was in college I regularly took a ten-hour train ride to visit my girlfriend (who is now my wife). I hated those rides and imagined other ways I could visit my girlfriend without travelling. Those daydreams eventually\* became Zoom."

**Zoom: the uses**

It was Eric, now 50, who realised the need for Zoom for schools and offices, hospitals and homes. He immediately allowed schools in the U.S., Italy and Japan to use Zoom for free – over 90,000 schools joined.

**Zoom: the negatives**

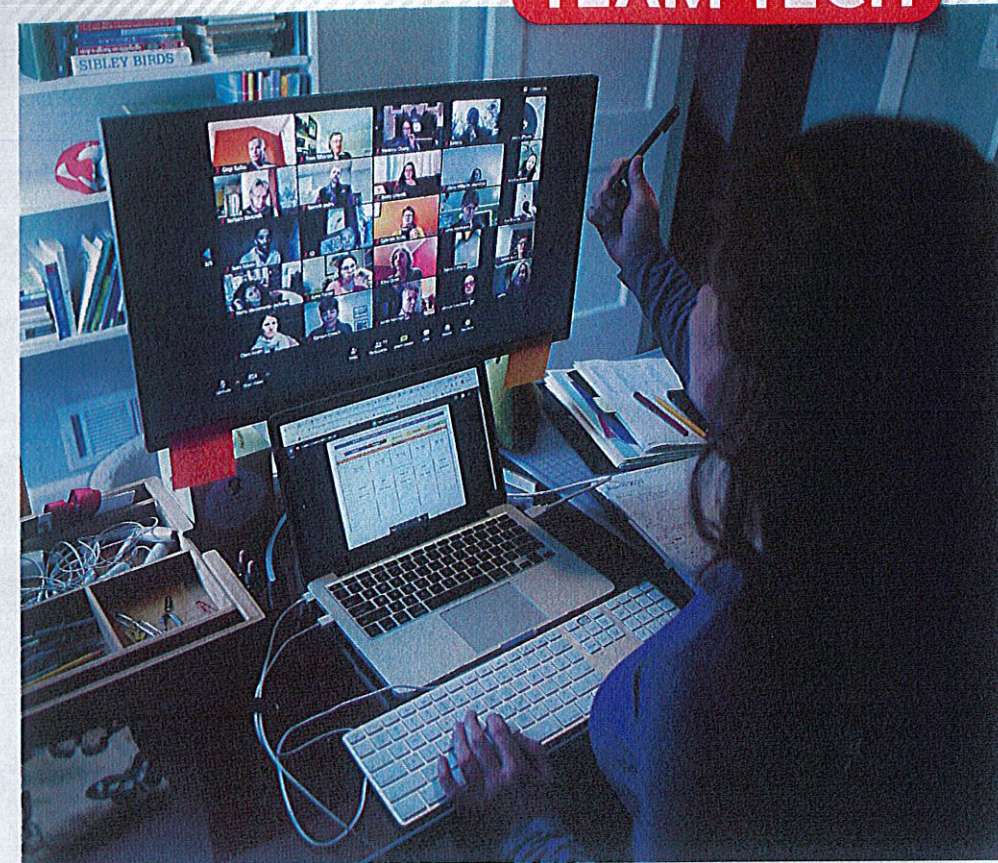
Of course, not everyone is a fan. "Will we use this when Covid-19 is over?" asks journalist Simon Pitt. Many complain of feeling awkward\*, embarrassed and self-conscious when on a call. And privacy is also a problem. Hackers interrupted\* private video chats – this is called 'Zoombombing'.

**Zoom: the future**

Yet the 'Zoom Boom'\* is here to stay. Cambridge University says all of its lectures\* will take place online until 2021. And business trips and big offices will be a thing of the past – as employees work from home. As for Ben, he is planning his next party – and is inviting his gran. "We're all Zoomers now!"

**DISCUSS IT**

- How do you feel during a video-call?
- Did you have any lessons / quizzes on video-call?
- What are the advantages of video-calling?
- What are the disadvantages?



Grammar: *ed v ing* adjectives

**Zoom Chat**

What do these users think of Zoom? Read and choose the correct adjective:

1 It's **distracting / distracted** when you can see yourself on screen!

2 I was in an online lesson and my dog started barking\*! I was so **embarrassed / embarrassing!**

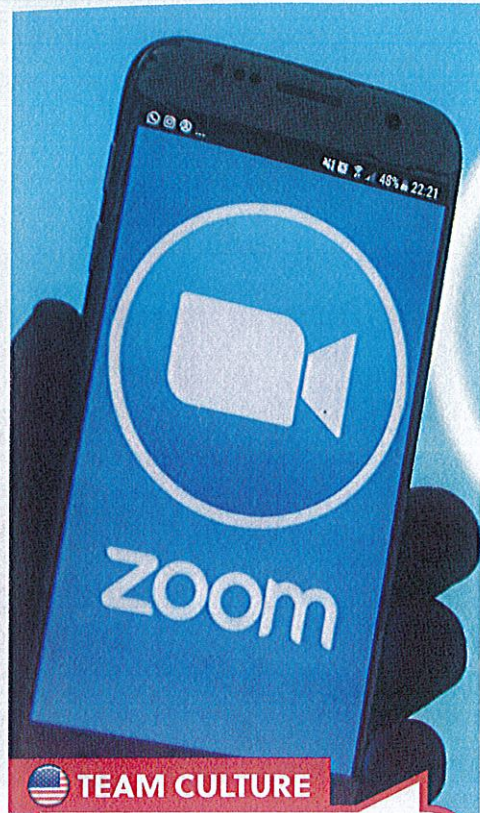
3 I was so **pleasing / pleased** when my grandparents learned how to Zoom! I hadn't seen them for months.

4 I thought it was fun at first, but now I'm **bored / boring** of it! I prefer to talk to real people!

5 I was **shocking / shocked** when I realised everybody could see my unmade bed on screen!

6 It's **frustrated / frustrating** when someone has their microphone on mute\*!





## TEAM test

# WHICH ZOOMER ARE YOU?

**ZOOM**

- It was started by Eric Yuan.
- It started in 2011.
- Its headquarters are in San Jose, California.
- In December 2019, 10 million people used Zoom.
- By April 2020, 300 million people had downloaded Zoom.

**Comprehension Check**

1. Write three activities you can do on Zoom.
2. What does Amy like about Zoom?
3. When and why did Eric Yuan have the idea for Zoom?
4. How many schools used Zoom?
5. Why don't some people like using Zoom?
6. What is Cambridge University doing until next year?

The answers are on page 15

**Tick one answer:**

- 1 The Zoom lesson starts at 9 am. You are always ...
  - A ... 10 minutes early.
  - B ... on time.
  - C ... 5 minutes late.
- 2 Your Zoom background is ...
  - A ... a bookshelf, a poster and a plant.
  - B ... a virtual background.
  - C ... my messy room with my socks and pants on the floor.
- 3 Before a Zoom call, you always ...
  - A ... check your hair, teeth and clothes so you look good.
  - B ... use the Zoom filter so you look ok.
  - C ... move the camera so no one can see your dirty T-shirt.
- 4 During a Zoom call, you ...
  - A ... talk all the time.
  - B ... have your microphone on mute\*.
  - C ... have a drink in your hand.
- 5 Your teachers says lessons are on Zoom for a month. You ...
  - A ... feel excited! You are ready and waiting for the call!
  - B ... feel upset! It's not the same as class.
  - C ... feel stressed. Where can I hide?

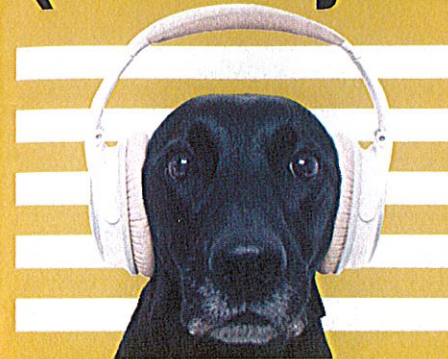
The analysis is on page 15

**PRACTISE**  
Language Lab  
Online Learning Unit on this article  
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**WORDWISE** \* lockdown (n): period of time when the Government says people cannot leave their homes without good reason \* to join (v): to be part of \* to host (v): to organise \* to go on a date (phr): to meet someone romantically \* platform (n): a computer program or website \* filter (n): a tool to improve, hide or change parts of an image \* messy (adj): dirty or untidy \* founder (n): the person who creates a company \* CEO (acronym): Chief Executive Officer; the head of a company \* eventually (adverb): at the end \* awkward (adj): strange or unnatural \* to interrupt (v): to stop someone when they are speaking or doing something \* boom (n): an increase in popularity \* lecture (n): a university class \* to bark (v): when a dog makes a loud sound \* on mute (adj): with the sound turned off

# YOUR TEENAGE DOG

## ( ... is just like you!)



**BEFORE YOU READ:**  
These adjectives are sometimes used to describe 'typical' teenage behaviour:

1. What do they mean?
  2. Are they fair? Why / why not?
  3. Do any of these describe you? If so, when and why?
- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> rebellious* | <input type="radio"/> moody     |
| <input type="radio"/> wild        | <input type="radio"/> cheeky    |
| <input type="radio"/> lazy        | <input type="radio"/> tired     |
| <input type="radio"/> anxious     | <input type="radio"/> angry     |
| <input type="radio"/> rude        | <input type="radio"/> stroppy*  |
| <input type="radio"/> daring*     | <input type="radio"/> emotional |

You don't want to get up. But you do want to spend hours on TikTok. You don't want visit your gran. But you do want to stay out.

Typical teenage behaviour? Sometimes. But, it's not just human teenagers. Did you know that dogs are the same as human teens? Between the ages of 6-12 months, dogs enter adolescence. They are no longer puppies, and not yet adult dogs. Scientists at Newcastle and Nottingham University in England studied 69 dogs<sup>1</sup>. They observed\* the dogs at five months – before they started puberty – and then at eight months old. They noticed that the teenage dogs' behaviour changed:

- The dogs became more rebellious.
- They were harder to train.
- They took longer to respond to their owners.

Why? During this period, dogs' brains and hormones are changing. This makes it hard for them to control their behaviour and emotions. So teen dogs are more likely to 'misbehave\*'. And this is the sad side to this story. Teenage dogs are more likely to be sent to animal shelters\* than at any other age. "Teen dogs are often rehomed because they are no longer a cute little puppy and their owners find they are more challenging\* and can no longer control them," says Dr Lucy Asher, who worked on the study. But it doesn't last forever\*. "The dogs are going through a phase – it will pass."



**LISTEN ALONG**  
Listen to the article online.  
[www.mg-plus.net/team201](http://www.mg-plus.net/team201)

**WORDWISE** \* rebellious (adj): to not follow the rules \* daring (adj): taking risks \* stroppy (adj): moody, difficult \* to observe (v): to watch closely \* to misbehave (v): to behave badly, be naughty \* animal shelter (n): home for unwanted / lost animals \* challenging (adj): difficult \* forever (adj): without end

<sup>1</sup> Study published in *Biology Letters*, 2020.