

FRANCE

BIG SCREEN

... little changes!

Hands up if you watched Netflix in lockdown.

The site was the big winner, with 16 million new subscribers streaming documentaries, comedy and films as they stayed at home. But what of the empty cinemas in cities and towns?



Can they survive?

In order to reopen, cinemas have had to implement strict new social distancing and hygiene measures. And some have come up with creative ways to keep cinema-goers safe. At this cinema in Paris, cuddly minions on seats remind the audience to space out.

LISTEN ALONG
Listen and follow these stories online.
www.mg-plus.net/current201

At least no one tall is sitting in front of me!

Phew! No one is crunching popcorn!

That's because they can't sell it!

DISCUSS IT

- Do you prefer a night out at the cinema or a night in with Netflix? Why?
- Which of these free-time experiences have you tried since lockdown?
 - a trip to the cinema
 - eating at a restaurant
 - workout at the gym
- How has the experience changed?

WORDWISE

to topple (v) / toppled (pp): to knock something over
 to shove (v): to push hard
 merchant (n): trader, dealer
 philanthropist (n): a person who gives money to help charities or people less fortunate
 colonial (adj): with colonies – a colony is a country under the control or partial control of another country
 to eliminate (v): to remove
 to implement (v): to put in place
 cuddly (adj): soft and used for comfort
 gathering (n): a group / meeting of people
 to inject (v): to add, to bring in
 echoey (adj): with echo, sound that bounces off a surface
 bunch (n, inf): a group of
 to abolish (v): to stop, to end
 willpower (n): self control
 to wane (v): to become weaker, to decrease

CHINA

BACK TO SCHOOL

You've got a new bag ... new books ... new shoes ... and a whole bunch of new school rules. From compulsory temperature checks and mandatory masks to 'learning bubbles' and hand washing breaks, this school term is going to be unlike any other.

In China, where many schools restarted in June, students are already accustomed to the new school rules and regulations. In Hubei, students in masks line up, each passing through a temperature detector before they are allowed into class.



WORD SEARCH

Find two words which mean something is necessary and must be done?

and

The answer is on page 23

CREATIVE WRITING

- Write the new school rules for your school.
- Are there any rules you would like to introduce?
- Which would you abolish? Explain your answers.

DISCUSS IT

- When did you return to school?
- How has your school life changed?
- What do you miss most? Has anything changed for the better?

10 SECOND STORIES

CURRENT's pick of quick stories and striking stats. Read and tick your instant reaction:

I HAD PASTA TONIGHT.

THE PHRASE

This simple phrase is also teen TikTok code – it's used by someone to signal that they have depression or anxiety.

DISTURBING DAFT
WHY?



THE TREND

Masks are now everyday items. So, why not get creative with your face covering?

INSPIRED INDIFFERENT
WHY?



THE STAT

Step away from the cookie jar! Our willpower waned while we stayed at home, with a 40% increase in snacking.

I'M IN THE FRIDGE!
I'M IN CONTROL!
WHY?



THE GADGET

We touch our faces 16 times an hour – a habit that can increase our risk of catching a virus. This new wristband reminds you to stop!

INVENTIVE! EXPENSIVE!
WHY?

"Football without fans ... is nothing!"

Pogba passes the ball to Fernandes, who crosses it to Rashford who fires the ball into the top corner of the net. GOAL! One-nil Manchester United!

The fans are absolutely ... silent. Why? Because there are no fans. To reduce the spread of coronavirus, football is likely to be played 'behind closed doors' until 2021 – as large gatherings remain banned.

So how can football clubs inject atmosphere into the empty, echoey stadiums? Some sports media companies are playing crowd sound effects. Some clubs have digital fan boards and some have cardboard fans in the stands!



DISCUSS IT

What's your reaction to the cardboard fans?

VOCABULARY-BUILDER

What does 'behind closed doors' mean? The answer is on page 23

CURRENT

Student code: train20
www.mg-plus.net

COMMENTARY GRAPH

SKYROCKETING GREEN TIME!

BEFORE YOU READ:

Which digital devices do you own? Which of these did you use most in lockdown? Why?

Extraordinary times, extraordinary trends – and the biggest may be that the time spent on digital devices has soared* to new highs.

“Before coronavirus I used to worry about my screen time a lot,” says Nellie. “I’d try different digital detoxes – as if they were diets, each working for a week or two before I’d be back on that smooth glowing glass.”

But during the months in isolation Nellie ditched her screen-time guilt. “My TV was on. My computer was open. My phone was unlocked, on silent. I wanted to be covered in screens.” No doubt about it, the undisputed lockdown winner was our digital devices: from smartphones and laptops to TVs and game consoles. “Billions of people turned to them to cope with life and work under lockdown,” says data analyst Simon Kemp.

DIGITAL DATA:

- In the UK adults spent an average of **4 hours** a day online in lockdown.
- **7 in 10** people made video calls at least once a week.
- **35 per cent** of global Internet users consumed more news online.
- **20 per cent** plan to stream more TV shows and movies after lockdown.

DATA ANALYSIS

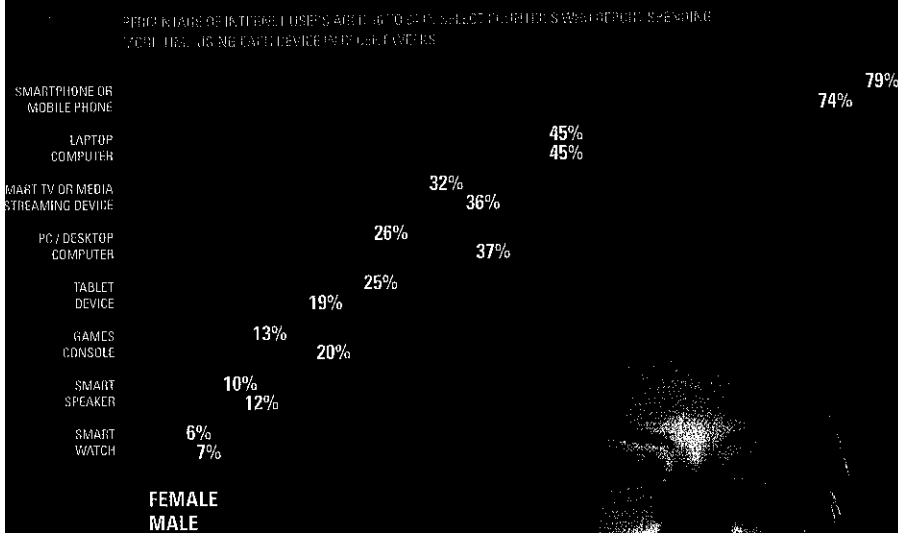
Look at the graph and answer these questions:

- 1 Which device has seen the biggest increase in use?
- 2 Which one has been used least?
- 3 Which ones have been used more by men?
- 4 Which ones have been used equally?
- 5 Who’s been streaming more – men or women?

WORDWISE

- to soar (v): to rise rapidly
- detox (n): when you give up something completely and go clean
- glowing (adj): emitting light
- to ditch (v): to stop doing something suddenly
- glittering (adj): shining, sparkling
- undisputed (adj): absolute, without any doubt

See answers on page 23 <



SOURCE: GlobalWebIndex's coronavirus multi-market study (wave 2, April 2020).

DISCUSS IT

- After lockdown will you use digital devices more or less? Why?
- What are the health consequences of excessive screen use?
- Are there any benefits?

“I HAVE A VOICE!”

Teenagers speak up at anti-racism protests

Nipah Kazali, 18
President of Black Lives Matter, Greater New York

Cover Questions:

- Have you ever joined a protest? What for?
- Would you protest in any circumstances? Why / why not?