

English Reading Comprehension Worksheet

B1+/B2 Level

Topic: The Offline Challenge

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Time: 45–60 minutes

Reading Text

The Weekend Without a Screen

On a rainy Friday afternoon, the students of Class 10B expected another ordinary school day. Instead, their English teacher, Mrs. Harrison, walked into the classroom carrying a large wooden box. Without saying a word, she placed it on her desk and smiled.

"I have a challenge for all of you," she announced. "This weekend, I want you to spend forty-eight hours without using your smartphones, social media, video games, or streaming services."

The classroom immediately exploded with reactions.

"You must be joking!"

"What if someone needs me?"

"I'll die of boredom!"

Mrs. Harrison laughed. "No, you won't. In fact, I think you'll discover something you've forgotten."

The rules were simple. Students could only use their phones for real emergencies or phone calls with family members. Everything else had to stay switched off from Saturday morning until Monday morning. Afterwards, they had to write a reflection about their experience.

Many students secretly planned to ignore the assignment. They assumed that nobody would ever know if they cheated.

Saturday morning arrived.

Lena reached for her phone before she even opened her eyes. It was such a natural habit that she didn't realise what she was doing until her hand touched the empty bedside table. She had placed her phone in a drawer the night before.

For several minutes she simply lay there, unsure what to do next.

Normally, she would spend at least half an hour checking messages, watching short videos, and scrolling through social media before getting out of bed.

Instead, she got dressed and decided to take her dog, Milo, for an unusually long walk.

The streets were surprisingly peaceful. Without headphones, she noticed sounds she had ignored for years: birds singing, leaves moving in the wind, bicycles passing quietly, and neighbours greeting one another. She even stopped to chat with an elderly woman who often sat on the same park bench. They spoke for almost twenty minutes about gardening, travelling, and life in general.

Later that afternoon, Lena found an old sketchbook hidden under her bed. She had loved drawing when she was younger but had completely forgotten about it. She spent three hours creating a detailed picture of the park she had visited that morning.

When she finally looked at the clock, she was shocked. Time had passed much faster than she had expected.

Meanwhile, Max's weekend turned out very differently.

Without online games, he had no idea how to entertain himself. He walked around the house complaining every few minutes.

"This assignment is pointless," he told his father.

His father simply handed him a toolbox.

"If you're so bored," he said, "help me repair the old bicycle in the garage."

At first, Max refused. He had never repaired anything before and believed it would be too difficult.

However, after his father patiently explained how the gears worked and why the brakes needed adjusting, Max became interested. They spent almost the entire afternoon cleaning rusty parts, replacing broken cables, and testing the bicycle outside.

By evening, the bicycle looked almost new.

"I didn't know fixing things could actually be satisfying," Max admitted.

His father smiled.

"Many people only discover that after they stop looking at a screen."

Not everyone enjoyed the experiment.

Emma felt nervous throughout Saturday. She worried that her friends might organise something without her or that she would miss important news. Several times she picked up her phone before remembering the challenge.

She realised that she wasn't afraid of being alone.

She was afraid of missing out.

The feeling had a name: **FOMO**—Fear Of Missing Out.

By Sunday afternoon, however, something unexpected happened.

She no longer felt anxious.

Instead, she baked a chocolate cake with her younger brother, watched the rain from the kitchen window, and spent the evening talking to her grandparents. Her grandmother told stories about growing up before computers existed.

Emma realised that although people had lived without constant internet access, they had still built strong friendships and exciting lives.

On Monday morning, the students returned to school.

Mrs. Harrison asked everyone the same question.

"So... was it terrible?"

The class laughed.

Some admitted they had secretly checked their phones.

Others proudly completed the challenge.

Many students agreed that the first few hours had been difficult because they kept reaching for devices automatically.

Several realised how often they used technology simply because they were bored, not because they actually needed it.

Others discovered forgotten hobbies such as painting, reading, baking, playing musical instruments, or spending time outdoors.

Mrs. Harrison ended the lesson with one final thought.

"Technology is one of humanity's greatest inventions. It allows us to learn, communicate, and solve problems. But the most useful tool in the world can become a distraction if we forget to control it instead of letting it control us."

As the bell rang, nobody rushed to check their phones immediately.

For the first time in a long while, many students simply continued talking to one another.

Part A – True or False (Correct the false statements.)

Write **T** or **F**. If the statement is false, write the correct information.

1. Mrs. Harrison wanted the students to avoid all electronic devices for one month.
2. Lena went for a long walk with her dog.
3. Max spent the weekend learning to repair a bicycle.
4. Emma's greatest fear was being home alone.
5. Many students rediscovered old hobbies.
6. Mrs. Harrison believed technology was completely harmful.

Part B – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer.

1. Why did many students think they could ignore the assignment?

- A) They thought it was optional.
- B) They believed nobody could check whether they cheated.
- C) Their parents disagreed.
- D) The school cancelled it.

2. What surprised Lena during her walk?

- A) There were many tourists.
- B) The park was closed.
- C) She noticed sounds she usually ignored.
- D) It started snowing.

3. What changed Max's opinion?

- A) He found a new video game.
- B) Repairing the bicycle became interesting.
- C) He watched online tutorials.
- D) His friends visited him.

4. What does FOMO mean?

- A) Feeling Overly Motivated Online

- B) Fear Of Missing Out
- C) Friends Organising Many Outings
- D) Finding Online Media Often

5. What is the main message of the text?

- A) Technology should be banned in schools.
- B) Smartphones are dangerous.
- C) Technology is useful but should be used responsibly.
- D) Students should never play video games.

Part C – Vocabulary in Context

Find a word or expression from the text that means:

1. ordinary: _____
2. hidden: _____
3. enjoyable or giving pleasure: _____
4. worry: _____
5. discovered again: _____

Part D – Answer the Questions

Answer in complete sentences.

1. Why was the beginning of the challenge difficult for Lena?
2. How did repairing the bicycle affect Max?

3. Why did Emma feel anxious on Saturday?
4. What activities replaced screen time for the students?

Mention at least **three**.

5. What lesson did Mrs. Harrison want her students to learn?

Part E – Language Analysis

Find examples from the text of the following.

1. One example of **Direct Speech**
2. One example of the **Past Perfect**
3. One example of the **Past Continuous**
4. One example of an **Adverb**
5. One example of a **Modal Verb**

Part F – Inference Questions

Think carefully before answering.

1. Why do you think Lena had forgotten about her sketchbook?

2. Why do you think Mrs. Harrison did not simply tell the students to reduce their screen time?
3. Why was talking to her grandparents important for Emma?
4. What does the final sentence of the text suggest about the students?