

# GENERATIONS

## 1 WARM UP

Task 1: Match the pictures to the correct word.

middle-aged    old    toddler    baby    teenager    young adult



1. toddler



2. old



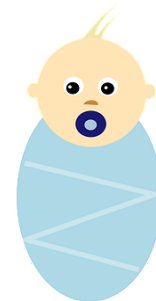
3. middle-aged



4. young adult



5. teenager



6. baby

Task 2: Discuss the following lead-in questions as a class:

1. How old are you? When is your birthday?
2. What do you think the age range of each category is?
3. Describe members of your family using the vocabulary above.



## 2 GENERATION

Read the [article](#) about generations below, then complete the tasks.

In this article, we will look at 5 generations. The first generation is called the Silent Generation and it includes all people born in 1945 and before. People from this generation work very hard. The rate of unemployment was very low for this generation.

Then, there's the Baby Boomers - people born in 1946-1964. 65% of people in this generation prefer a desktop to a laptop. Today, only 4 in 10 Baby Boomers own a smartphone.

Thereafter came Generation X, people born in 1965-1976. 61% of this generation own a laptop, but only 5% own a tablet. People in this generation like to get their news updates from websites and apps.

This was followed by the biggest generation, the Millennials. All Millennials were born between 1977 and 1995. During these years, people were starting to use more technology and computers. People in this generation prefer to use a laptop to a desktop.

The last identified generation is Gen Z with people born in 1996 up to now. People in this generation use their smartphones for most activities like work, browsing the internet, online shopping and watching videos. 98% of people in this generation own a smartphone.

Both Millennials and Gen Z prefer to get news updates from social networks like Facebook and Instagram. And, 62% of Gen Z and Millennials say they would rather leave their wallet at home than their phone.

Source: [Link](#)

**Task 1: Complete the table. Where no info is given in the table, give your own answer.**

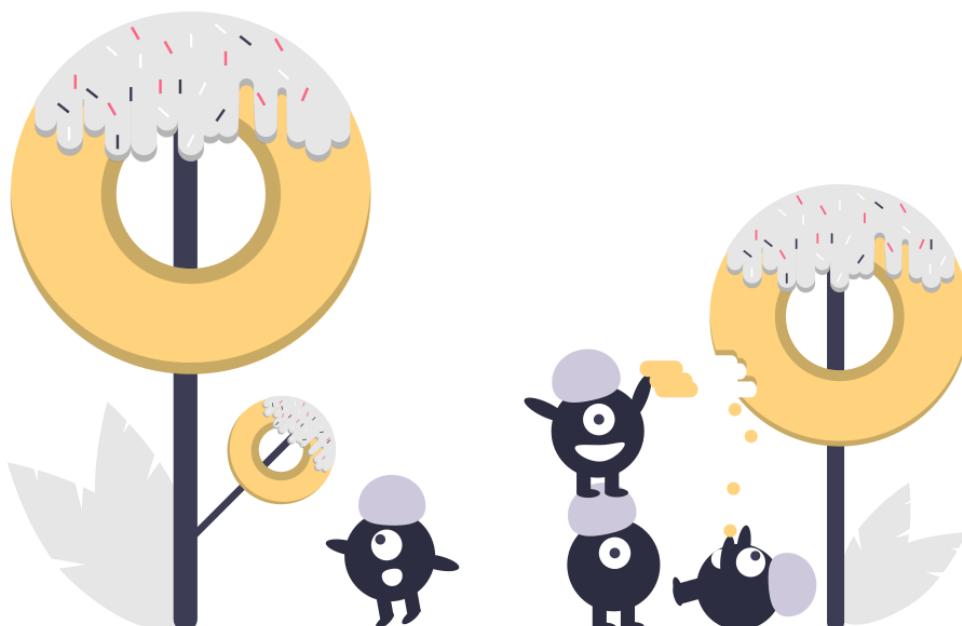
	... - 1945	1946 - 1964	1965 - 1976	1977 - 1995	1996 - ...
<b>Generation</b>	<b>The Silent Generation</b>	<b>Baby Boomers</b>	<b>Gen X</b>	<b>Millennials</b>	<b>Gen Z</b>
<b>Preferred device</b>	/	<b>Desktop</b>	<b>Laptop</b>	<b>Laptop</b>	<b>Smartphone</b>
<b>News source</b>	/	/	<b>Websites and News Apps</b>	<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Social Media</b>

**Task 2: Say whether the statements are true or false.**

1. The rate of unemployment was the highest in the Silent Generation. **F**
2. Millennials like to get news updates on social networks. **T**
3. Gen Z would rather leave their phone at home than their wallet. **F**
4. 65% of Baby Boomers prefer a desktop. **T**
5. 10% of Generation X own a tablet. **F**
6. Gen Z uses their laptops for everything. **F**

**Task 3: Answer the questions.**

1. Which generation are you a part of?
2. Do you agree with the facts given about your generation?
3. Where do you prefer to get news updates?
4. Which device do you use the most: desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone?
5. How do you differ from your parents with...
  - a. Work
  - b. Technology
  - c. Saving money



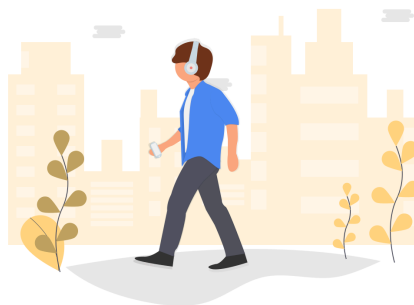
### 3 PAST CONTINUOUS

Read the theory about the past continuous tense and then complete the tasks.

Past Continuous		
<b>Use</b>	Used to talk about an action that continued for some time in the past.	
<b>Form</b>	was / were + present participle*	
Examples		
I	was	walking talking cooking snowing  *-ing form of the verb
he, she, it	was	
we, you, they	were	

**Task 1: Fix the mistakes in the sentences.**

- a) She ~~were~~ cooking 1 hour ago. **was**
- b) He was ~~lived~~ in New York from 2010 to 2015. **living**
- c) In 2011, they ~~was~~ working at Google. **were**
- d) I was ~~study~~ law 2 years ago. **studying**
- e) It ~~were~~ snowing this morning. **was**
- f) You were ~~wrote~~ the test last night at 19:00. **writing**
- g) I was ~~eat~~ dinner at 20:00 yesterday. **eating**
- h) They were ~~sitting~~ on the sofa a few minutes ago. **sitting**



**Task 2: Transform the sentences so that they are in the past continuous.**

1. In 2010, I lived in London.

**In 2010, I was living in London.**

2. This morning at 9:00, they had breakfast with their dad.

**This morning at 9:00, they were having breakfast with their dad.**

3. Last night at 22:00, we drove home from the club.

**Last night at 22:00, we were driving home from the club.**

4. Last year in August, she travelled through Europe.

**Last year in August, she was travelling through Europe.**

5. Two years ago, he studied to be a teacher.

**Two years ago, he was studying to be a teacher.**

6. This afternoon at 14:00, it snowed.

**This afternoon at 14:00, it was snowing.**

**Task 3: Answer the questions.**

1. What were you doing this morning at 8:00?
2. What were you doing at 22:00 last night?
3. Where were you living in 2010?
4. Where were you working two years ago?
5. What were you doing four hours ago?
6. Were you working on any projects last weekend?
7. What were you thinking about when you were getting ready this morning?
8. What music were you listening to when you last exercised?



## 4 TECHNOLOGY: LISTENING TO MUSIC

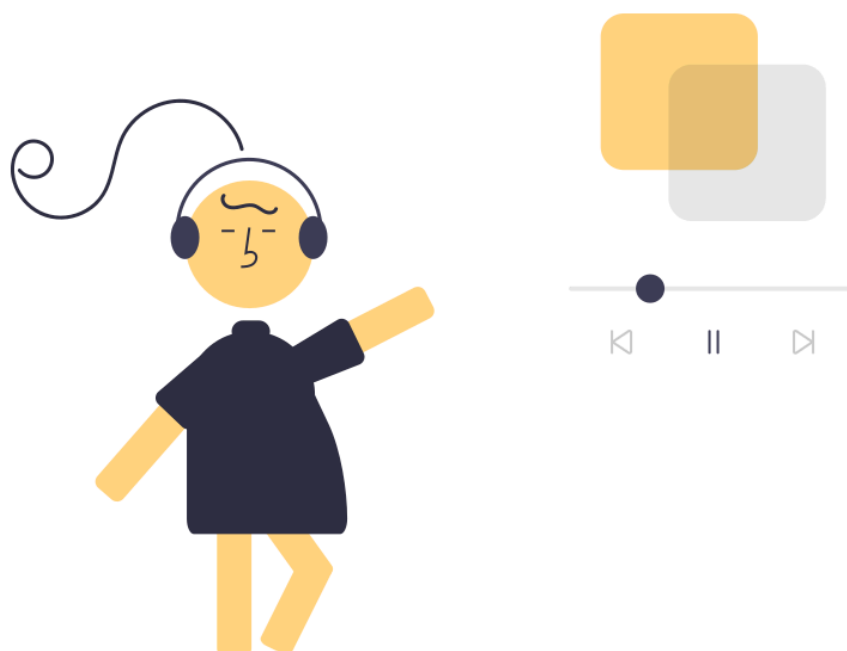
Look at the timeline below and answer the questions.

	1948-1982	1982-2003	2003-2011	2011-2021
Music	Vinyls	CDs	iPods / MP3s	Smartphones
Payment	Cash / Cards		Contactless	
Maps	Paper maps	GPS devices	GPS maps on smartphones	

Questions: **Encourage students to use the Past Continuous tense.**

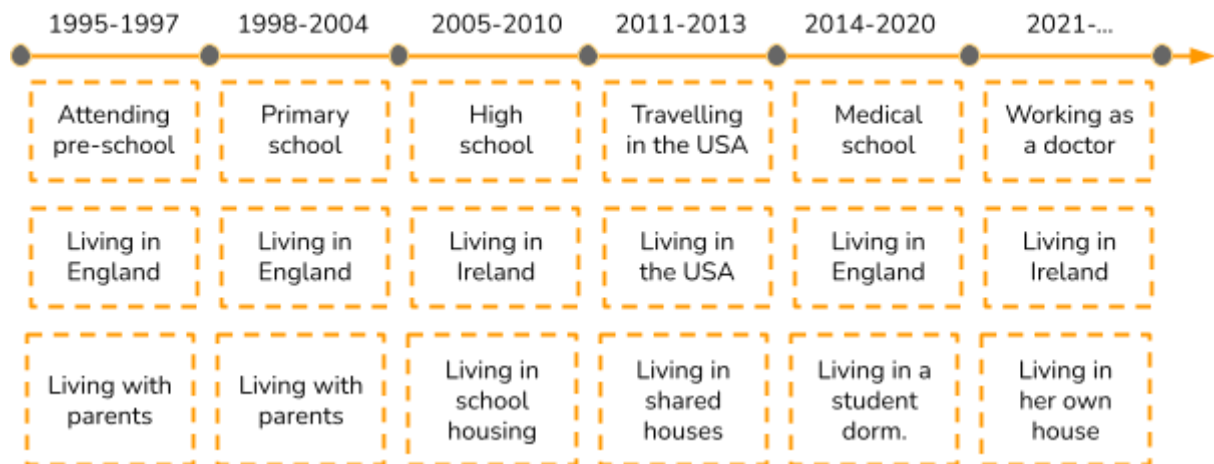
1. What were people using to listen to music in 1953? **People were using vinyls to listen to music.**
2. What were people using to listen to music in 2008? **iPods/ MP3s**
3. How were people paying in 2001? **Cash / Cards**
4. How were people getting directions in 1977? **Paper maps**
5. How were people getting directions in 2002? **GPS devices**

**Task 2: Talk about the evolution of music. Use the past continuous tense. Take a few minutes to prepare your answer, then share it with the class.**



## 5 TIMELINE

Meet Anna and read the timeline of her life. Then, answer the questions.



**Task 1: Answer the following questions:**

1. When was she living in the USA? **2011-2013**
2. Where was she living in 2007? **Ireland**
3. When was she attending high school? **2005-2010**
4. What was she doing in 2016? **Studying to be a dentist**
5. When was she living in a shared house? **2011-2013**
6. Where was she living in 2017? **England**
7. Describe her life in 2005.
8. Describe how her life changed from 1995 to 2021.

**Task 2: Work in pairs. Create a similar timeline to Anna's about your own life.**



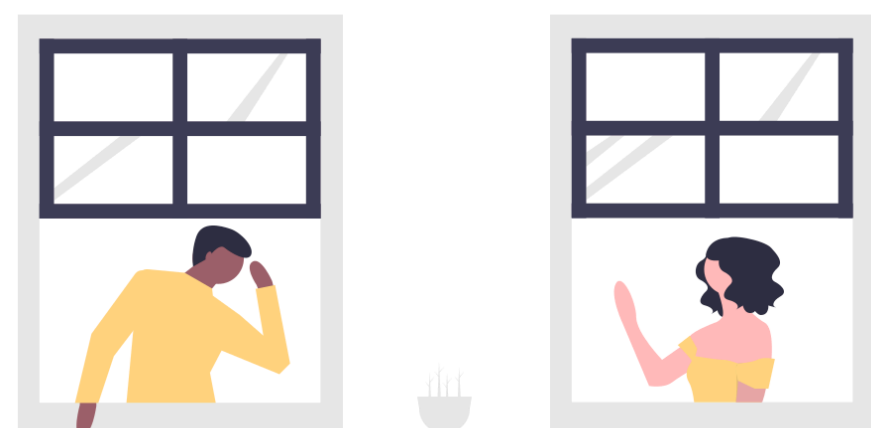
## 6 CASE STUDY

Study the information in the table and then answer the questions.

	1995	1997	2000	2004	Now
Jona	Living in Buenos Aires.	Travelling in Peru.	Studying to be a teacher.	Working as a teacher.	Living in Berlin.
Beth	Working as a nurse.	Studying to be a lawyer.	Working as an intern.	Living in New York.	Working as a lawyer.
Angela	Living in Paris.	Working as a tour guide.	Studying to be a doctor.	Working in a hospital.	Studying to be a surgeon.
Roger	Working as a waiter.	Studying to be a chef.	Working at a restaurant.	Opening a restaurant.	Living in Madrid.

**Task 1: Answer the questions using full sentences:**

1. Who was living in Buenos Aires in 1995? **Jona**
2. What was Jona doing in 1997? **Travelling through Peru**
3. When was Beth working as an intern? **2000**
4. Who was living in New York in 2004? **Beth**
5. Talk about Angela's timeline - what was she doing in 1995, 1997 etc?
6. Talk about Roger's timeline - what was he doing in 1995, 1997 etc?
7. Describe how Beth's life has changed from 1995 to present day.
8. Describe how Jona's life changed from 1997 to 2004.



## 7 LISTENING

**Task 1:** Watch the [video](#), then decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. Millennials were given their name because they were the first graduating class of the new millennium. **T**
2. Millennials are also known as Echo Boomers because of a major surge in birth rates in the 80s and 90s. **T**
3. Generation X is generally between 38 and 53 years old. **T**
4. Millennials should have been called Generation Y. **F**
5. Baby Boomers are people aged between 54 to 72. **T**
6. There are set age guidelines in place to determine which category someone falls into. **F**
7. Post-Millennials are most accustomed to landline phones and dial-up internet. **F**
8. Millennials often have more conservative views politically when compared to other age groups. **F**
9. Many Millennials work in communications and technology. **T**
10. The word "Millennial" was first used in a children's magazine article in 1993. **T**

**Task 2:** Relisten to the [video](#), then answer the questions as a class:

- a. What is the age range for millennials?
- b. Why were millennials given their name?
- c. What other names have millennials been referred to as?
- d. Who are the parents of Generation X?
- e. What is the age range for baby boomers?
- f. What technology did millennials grow up with?
- g. What are some common political views held by millennials?
- h. How did the Great Recession affect millennials' careers?
- i. Why do we name different generations?



## 8 LET'S TALK

**Task 1: Study the following images, then give each one a title.**



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2: Use the following questions to discuss the pictures above.**

- Can you name the technology in the pictures?
- Have you used any of them?
- Which generations used these the most?
- Have some generations never used any of the technology pictured?
- Which piece of technology do you use the most?
- Which piece of technology had the biggest impact on society?
- Which picture is your favourite? Explain.







## 2 WRITING PRACTICE

Write answers for the questions. You need to use the Past Continuous tense.

1. What were you doing 3 hours ago?

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2. What were you doing at 8:00 this morning?

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3. Were you watching TV last night?

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4. What were you doing at 12:00 yesterday?

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5. Where were you living in 2010?

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6. Were you studying in 2001?

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7. Where were you working 5 years ago?

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8. Which series were you watching 2 years ago?

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### 3 PAST CONTINUOUS

**Task 1:** Use the past continuous to write about Ella and Jeff's day.

	7:30	9:30	14:00	20:00
Ella	Waking up	Working	Eating Lunch	Cooking dinner
Jeff	Sleeping	Cooking breakfast	Working	Watching TV

**Example:** At 7:30, Ella was waking up.

**Ella's day:**

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**Jeff's day:**

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