

GIMNAZIJA CELJE – CENTER

KOSOVELOVA ULICA 1

3000 CELJE

Urška PETRIČ LES

VAJE IZ ZAPOLNJEVANJA VRZELI (GAP FILL) V ANGLEŠKEM JEZIKU

Strokovno gradivo za učitelje angleškega jezika v programu

Splošna gimnazija in Umetniška gimnazija

Celje, avgust 2025

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UVODNA BESEDA

V času, ko bo v srednje šole začela prihajati Generacija Alfa, to so mladi, ki so iskalci informacij, in ko so najstniki vse bolj navajeni na hitre digitalne informacije in površinsko branje, pričakujejo pa takojšnji odziv in povratno informacijo, postaja sistematično delo z daljšimi, zahtevnejšimi besedili ključnega pomena. Številne raziskave potrjujejo, da prav pomanjkanje stika z zahtevnejšimi besedili negativno vpliva na koncentracijo, sposobnost analize in celostno razumevanje, kar se neposredno odraža tudi v slabši bralni pismenosti. Ta ni pomembna le pri maternem jeziku, temveč tudi pri tujih jezikih in drugih predmetih, saj je jezik temelj skoraj vsakega znanja.

Prav zato sem pripravila strokovno gradivo, ki dijake vodi skozi vaje zapolnjevanja vrzeli (gap fill). Gre za eno najučinkovitejših vaj pri razvijanju občutka za jezik, saj bralca spodbuja k natančnemu spremljanju konteksta, logičnemu sklepanju in razumevanju povezav med deli besedila, hkrati mora pa misliti tudi na kontrastivno analizo ter biti pozoren na posebne besedne zveze ter izraze. Vaje niso zasnovane le kot mehansko vstavljanje manjkajočih besed, temveč so usmerjene v razvijanje sposobnosti razbiranja pomena na ravni celotnega odstavka in besedila. Tako se dijaki učijo prepoznati rabo različnih slovničnih struktur, pri čemer se hkrati krepi tudi njihovo razumevanje vsebine.

Besedila, vključena v strokovno gradivo, obravnavajo aktualne in resnejše teme, ki se navezujejo na izzive sodobne družbe ter na snov, s katero se dijaki srečujejo pri pouku. S tem gradivo presega golo slovnično vadbo in mlade spodbuja k razmišljanju, primerjanju, vrednotenju in povezovanju informacij. Različne stopnje zahtevnosti besedil (ta so tako izbrana namenoma) omogočajo, da se vsak dijak lahko sooči z izzivom na svoji ravni – od osnovne slovnične natančnosti do poglobljenega razumevanja kompleksnih struktur in pomenov.

Posebna dodana vrednost gradiva pa je v tem, da ne spodbuja le tehničnega znanja jezika, temveč tudi bralno kulturo in kritično razmišljanje. Vsaka vaja je premišljeno oblikovana tako, da vodi k poglobljenemu branju, razumevanju širšega konteksta in hkrati odpira prostor za razpravo o prebranem.

Prav s tem namenom na koncu gradiva dijake čaka še izbor 16 naslovov za eseje, ki so neposredno povezani z obravnavanimi besedili. Ti naslovi jih spodbujajo k samostojnemu razmišljanju, izražanju mnenja in razvijanju kompetence pisnega sporočanja, ki je nepogrešljiva tako v šolskem kot kasnejšem življenjskem kontekstu.

Zbirka nalog smiselno zaokrožuje celoto treh strokovnih gradiv, ki zajemajo tipe nalog, s katerimi se bodo dijaki srečali ob koncu srednješolskega izobraževanja – na maturi.

Avtorica

Urška Petrič Les, prof.

1. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/infinite-scroll/popping-the-bubble-of-noise-cancelling-headphones>

<p>Popping the Bubble of Noise-Cancelling Headphones A new Japanese-designed device promises to “unmute the world,” as if it were no longer possible to do so simply by uncovering your ears.</p> <p>By Kyle Chayka August 14, 2024</p> <p>We live in _____ world of virtual reality, but not the kind suggested by Apple’s Vision Pro goggles, the Meta Quest, or any of the other bulky V.R. headsets now _____ sale. It already exists in our ears. On any given city street or subway car, it sometimes seems as _____ more people than not have blocked off their ears. Some have the small antennas of AirPods peeking out _____ their auricles. Others have the obtrusive cups designed by Sony or Bose clamped to the sides of their heads like minimalist Mickey Mouse ears. Many of these devices are equipped _____ noise-cancelling technology that muffles the ambient sound of the world—honking cars, yelling children, clacking keyboards — _____ emitting vibrations of the opposite frequency. They can even be tuned _____ allow in some noises, like nearby voices, but _____ others; the headphone-wearer can opt out of the grating in her surrounding reality and pipe in the desirable, perhaps _____ album or a podcast.</p> <p>Noise-cancelling headphones were first sold _____ Bose, in 1989, to allow pilots to communicate over engine noise. _____ the past several years, they have gone from a relatively niche productivity tool—an antidote _____ the distractions of the open office—to a near-universal accessory, and, thus, something of a scourge. A day rarely goes by without some sensorially absent stranger almost running _____ me on the sidewalk or without me perpetrating the same annoyance myself. Similar complaints about headphones, however, are about _____ old as mobile listening itself. The invention of Sony’s Walkman, released _____ 1979, marked the first time recorded music could be consumed on the go using headphones. In 1984, in an article _____ the journal <i>Popular Music</i>, the musicologist Shuhei Hosokawa wrote _____ the Walkman listener “seems to cut the auditory contact with the outer world where he really lives: seeking _____ perfection of his ‘individual’ zone of listening.”</p> <p>If given _____ chance, a human being will use tools to minimize discomfort. It’s hard to take philosophical issue with, say, a face-blocking neck gaiter _____ the ski slopes. Still, I think we’ve reached the point _____ <i>too much</i> noise cancelling, because, when our individual</p>	<p>a</p> <p>for though</p> <p>of</p> <p>with</p> <p>by to - not</p> <p>an</p> <p>by In</p> <p>to</p> <p>into</p> <p>as in</p> <p>for that</p> <p>the</p> <p>the</p> <p>on of</p>
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audio realities become entirely avoidable, our public auditory landscapes get worse. Think of ____ as a version of the tragedy of the commons: If you can simply don your puffy AirPods Max and block out road construction outside ____ the loud stereo blaring ____ next door, there's less impetus to address the underlying issues of urban noise pollution or neighborly accountability. In that sense, noise-cancelling headphones ____ a fundamentally antisocial technology.	it or - from are
A new, rather strange headphone design recently produced ____ the Japanese company N.T.T. Sonority (a spinoff of a major Japanese telecommunications corporation) attempts something different. The company's nwm ONE headphones (which cost two hundred and ninety-nine dollars ____ pair) look like the denuded skeleton of the familiar Bose model. They feature ____ solid cup, just a plastic armature that allows a conical speaker to hover slightly off the tragus. The armature is supported by an empty ring, which is cushioned for comfort, around the ear. Thus, the ears of the person wearing ____ are exposed—a peekaboo that lends ____ the device and its user a quality somewhere between futuristic and nerdy, or maybe both ____ once. ("You look like a robot," my wife commented when she first saw me wearing ____.) But the open armature means that you can hear what is going on around you and listen to your preferred audio at the same time, ____ resorting to a complex digital filter that decides what you can make out, as the "aware" or "transparency" modes on other headphones attempt to do. The pointed speakers are "directional," beaming sound straight ____ the user's ears so that it barely leaks; only a person standing ____ inches of you can hear any noise, and even then, according to my informal tests, ____ more than a slight buzz. The device offers a technological solution ____ a problem caused in the first place by an excess of technology. The nwm ONE's tagline is "Unmute the world," as if it ____ not also possible to do so simply ____ taking off your headphones.	by per no it both at them without into within not to were - by
As I've been using the nwm ONE in the past week, my exhibitionistically unveiled ears have earned ____ a number of bemused stares. The archetypal designs of personal technology these days are so well established that ____ products are as blatantly <i>new</i> looking. But there is something of a throwback quality to the user experience, too. Wearing the nwm ONEs feels ____ bit like having an invisible man follow you around with a tiny stereo, like John Cusack in "Say Anything," that only you can hear. Without the added plastic and foam of typical over-ear headphones, ____ device is remarkably light. I often forgot I was wearing them. Noise-cancelling headphones tend ____ create miniature saunas of oil and sweat, whereas ____ allow for plenty of airflow, making them much ____ comfortable in summer weather. But the biggest advantage I've found is logistical. It's simply easier to navigate a city street ____ you can hear what's going on around you.	me few a the to these more when

<p>The nwm ONE has been particularly useful for me ____ walking my dog. I can listen on the headphones while still hearing when there's a cyclist coming up behind me on trails, making the kind of subtle sound that digital filters often block, or another dog owner trying ____ warn me to steer clear on the street. Walking through the woods, especially, I found the noise of cicadas and rustling leaves a pleasant accompaniment to a podcast; I didn't mind the interpenetration at all. But I've found that casual music listening is easier on the device ____ paying close attention to speaking voices, ____ can blend in with outside chatter. No matter ____ thoughtfully designed the pair of headphones, being in your own world and in the outside ____ simultaneously requires making trade-offs.</p>	<p>while</p> <p>to</p> <p>than which how one</p>
<p>The nwm ONE represents a rare case ____ today's tech industry of making a device <i>less</i> powerful than it could be. Takuto Takizawa, a product-development manager at N.T.T., and Shogo Nishiyori, the company's director of overseas marketing and sales, told me in an e-mail that fully sealing your ears is "unnatural". Staring ____ an iPhone is unnatural, too, of course, though we still do it ____ the time. We digitally mediate our lives in ways that often lead us to feel more isolated; we don't know ____ others are seeing on their algorithmically personalized social-media accounts or streaming services. Perhaps that's ____ the idea of open headphones feels so novel: they give us a chance to preserve the auditory commons before it goes the way of the information ecosystem. In his 1984 article on the Walkman, Hosokawa wrote that un-headphoned pedestrians, listening communally ____ a loud radio or a street musician, can "feel a recovery of the lost links of social life." The listener in 2024 can at ____ recover a hint of that collective feeling, even while continuing to indulge privately ____ constant content overload. ♦</p>	<p>in</p> <p>at all</p> <p>what</p> <p>why</p> <p>to</p> <p>least in</p>

2. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/time-to-learn-about-drugs-from-me-your-dad-who-grew-up-in-the-early-eighties-to-mid-nineties>

<p>Time to Learn About Drugs from Me, Your Dad Who Grew Up in the Early Eighties to Mid-Nineties</p> <p>By Daniel Kibblesmith December 8, 2021</p> <p>Hey, kiddo. Mind ____ I awkwardly sit on the edge of your bed in a way that I've never done before? I think it's time we ____ a talk about the worst possible thing that can ever happen to a human being.</p>	<p>if had</p>
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<p>Drugs.</p> <p>Believe it or _____, I was young once, too. I grew up in the early eighties to mid-nineties, so if there's one concept I have a clear-eyed understanding _____, it's drug use. It seems like every other day our school was running some kind of antidrug program _____ Just Say No, DARE, or even just this local couple _____ used to come by twice a year with a raccoon puppet. And _____ message was loud and clear:</p> <p>Drugs are going to kill you.</p> <p>You've reached the age _____ friends are going to start offering you drugs. But kids who push drugs _____ you aren't really your friends! They're just burnout losers who are _____ doing drugs because of peer pressure, to be popular! You don't want to be _____ extremely popular burnout loser, do you? I can tell _____ your confused expression that the answer is no.</p> <p>_____ order to avoid drugs, you'll need to know how to spot them. Drugs are kept in sock drawers or under the bed, in a nice wooden box _____ metal tin—kind of like your grandmother's sewing kit. But inside? You guessed it. One small plastic bag _____ of powder, one pill bottle, two blank postage stamps, one fully prepped, uncapped syringe, and a couple of rolled-up bundles _____ look like stuffed grape leaves from a Mediterranean restaurant. Also, there might be an eyedropper situation in there. Lucky _____ me, I've never had _____ actually see drugs, but I know what they look like, thanks to the many VHS tapes they showed us _____ recess whenever it was raining.</p> <p>It's not just "friends" you need to watch out _____. It's also drug dealers. These soulless junkies are usually about fifteen years old, and wear bandannas, sleeveless denim jackets, and asymmetrical neon sunglasses from Pizza Hut. You can always find _____ standing in front of some graffiti that says "RAD" or "BAD" and snapping their fingers along to a boom box. That's _____ they lure you in. And when it comes to these pushers, the first dose is always _____. That's how they get you hooked. There's nothing a drug dealer loves more _____ to give away their product for free. It gives them a sick thrill.</p> <p>Drugs are the _____ addictive substances in the world because they make you feel so bad and miserable. Of course, I've never tried drugs, but I don't need to in order to know _____ horrible effects. I learned the safe way—from a series of P.S.A.s in _____ Nancy Reagan teamed up with He-Man.</p> <p>These are the main drugs:</p>	<p>not</p> <p>of</p> <p>like</p> <p>who</p> <p>their</p> <p>when</p> <p>on</p> <p>only</p> <p>an</p> <p>from</p> <p>In</p> <p>or</p> <p>full</p> <p>that</p> <p>for – to</p> <p>during</p> <p>for</p> <p>them</p> <p>how</p> <p>free</p> <p>than</p> <p>most</p> <p>their</p> <p>which</p>
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<p>You’ve probably heard marijuana referred ____ as “Mary Jane,” “bud,” and “doobies.” But Mary Jane is not your bud—let’s “doobie” clear about that! At first, smoking a joint seems as harmless ____ puffing on one of my fine cigars. But then comes a serious case of the munchies—for harder drugs. That’s right; marijuana is ____ gateway drug. “One puff is never ____ —soon you’ll want the harder stuff!” I got that tidbit from a Scholastic Book Club sticker, and you know it’s true because the worm on it had glasses.</p>	<p>to</p> <p>as</p> <p>a</p> <p>enough</p>
<p>After your body’s tolerance grows and you become numb to the soaring highs of weed, you’ll probably move ____ to LSD, or “acid.” Now, when I was a kid, our baby-boomer parents were enjoying a bit of nineteen-sixties nostalgia —“Forrest Gump,” “The Beatles Anthology,” Woodstock ’94—but those weren’t the only flashbacks they were having. One drop of acid turns your whole world ____ a crazy cartoon where anything is possible. Sounds fun, right? But ____ you’re up in that diamond sky with Lucy, you’re actually teetering on the I-beams of a half-built skyscraper because you think you can fly! ____ literally happened to a cousin . . . of Spider-Man’s, in “Spider-Man Meets the Acid Badger,” a free comic I received ____ getting a tetanus shot.</p>	<p>on</p> <p>into</p> <p>while</p> <p>This</p> <p>after</p>
<p>Then there’s cocaine. Cocaine is what provided all my favorite comedians ____ the incredible energy they needed ____ give legendary performances on shows like “Saturday Night Live” ____ going on to blockbuster movies that launched them into unprecedented superstardom. They had it ____ — fame, talent, record-shattering paychecks, and billions of fans. But soon a ____ of them died young. Not all of them, but a couple, for sure.</p>	<p>with - to</p> <p>before</p> <p>all</p> <p>few</p>
<p>Worst of all ____ heroin. If you’re listening to a rock song and the singer mentions an animal, a color, a plant/flower, a woman’s name, or a feeling—guess ____? That’s code for heroin. Heroin is the easiest drug for you to avoid, because it’s deadly to acquire and difficult to inject. I suppose, in theory, ____ could be some kind of slippery slope to heroin addiction in the form of easily accessible pills in the medicine cabinet derived ____ similar opioids.</p> <p>But I don’t know ____ about that because, like I said, my drug knowledge firmly spans 1983 to 1995.</p>	<p>is</p> <p>what</p> <p>there</p> <p>from</p> <p>much</p>
<p>O.K., kiddo, that’s everything I learned ____ drugs from cross-corporation cartoon team-ups, giveaway pamphlets featuring talking versions of Presidential pets, posters of Mr. T reading ____ gardening, and the autoplay warnings on arcade games. The only way I could possibly know more about drugs is ____ I actually used them myself. As if! The only thing I want to get high on is being ____ dad.</p> <p>And, hey, now ____ you’re a street-smart big kid, how about we go out to the garage and you crack open a beer with your old man? I think</p>	<p>about</p> <p>and</p> <p>if</p> <p>a</p> <p>that</p>

you've earned it. This is number three for me, though, so you're going to _____ playing catch-up. ♦	be
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3. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/is-the-fight-against-climate-change-losing-momentum>

<p>Is the Fight Against Climate Change Losing Momentum? Some financial institutions are backing away from emission pledges.</p> <p>By Bill McKibben April 4, 2024</p> <p>The morally right side doesn't lose the crucial battles: the arc of the moral universe is long, but it does bend _____ justice. We know that lesson _____ well, which may be _____ problem, in that it gives us undue confidence. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us that we need to cut carbon emissions by nearly fifty per cent _____ 2030 in order to have a chance of meeting the targets set in Paris in 2015 — and 2030 is five years and nine months away. It's not impossible. Progress is being made _____ the world — including in this country, _____ the provisions of the Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act are beginning to kick _____, and in China — but as a planet we're still using more fossil fuel each year. That's _____ the signs of backsliding in recent weeks are particularly painful: they come _____ precisely the moment when we need to be accelerating the transition to renewable power.</p> <p>_____ February, several big financial institutions announced that they were leaving the Climate Action 100+ group, which many had joined following the Glasgow climate-change conference, in 2021, making broad but vague commitments _____ support an energy transition with their lending practices. They said _____ they would continue to work to reduce emissions, _____ reports have suggested that they may also have been trying to avoid the risk _____ lawsuits accusing them of E.S.G.ism — that is, caring about the environmental and social effects of their loans — or, worse, of woke capitalism.</p> <p>_____ recent report from Bloomberg lays out the calculations clearly: there is no way for the banks to keep to the pledge _____ surrendering some part of their business. As Bloomberg notes, the European Central Bank estimated this winter that perhaps fifteen per cent of the business of that continent's banks is linked _____ companies that are in high-carbon, energy-intensive sectors. James Vaccaro, of the Climate Safe</p>	<p>toward too - a</p> <p>by</p> <p>around where in why at</p> <p>In</p> <p>to that but of</p> <p>A without</p> <p>to</p>
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<p>Lending Network, a group that helps the industry figure out how to cut ____ carbon footprint, said that “for banks with substantial capital-markets businesses,” it’s the fee income (the returns for doing deals) “that’s on the line here.” He added that “ditching clients off track” for meeting the Paris targets “means losing major lines of revenue.” Jane Fraser, the C.E.O. of Citigroup—____ second largest lender to the fossil-fuel industry since 2016 — said at an industry conference in October that, in her mind, the “S” in E.S.G. now stands for “security” as ____ as for “social.” Last week, a Citi report found that seventy-one per cent of its energy-sector clients lack sufficient plans to transition away from fossil fuels, but that, rather ____ dropping them, the bank would “hold conversations.” And, apparently, ____ business with them: last year, Citi acted as the lead adviser for ExxonMobil on its merger with Pioneer Natural Resources, ____ oil and natural-gas giant, even though Exxon has made it clear that it has ____ immediate plans to move away from hydrocarbons.</p>	<p>its</p>
<p>The Bloomberg report quotes an exasperated UBS executive telling a closed-door gathering in Tokyo with representatives of “the Federal Reserve, ____ European Central Bank, and public officials from around the world” that “banks are living ____ lending on planet Earth,” not on some planet of environmental virtue. According ____ the report, his “impassioned speech” met with “little pushback. This kind of bluster is always billed as “realism,” but that’s because it treats economic and political reality ____ more important than reality. And that reality is that the U.S. just endured the hottest winter on record, which featured what, according to Yale’s Climate Connections blog, appears to be the largest wildfire on record ____ the history of Texas. In the rest of the world, last month, the Great Barrier Reef, the largest living structure on Earth, was hit ____ the fifth wave of mass bleaching in the past eight years; at about the same moment, the heat index in Rio topped a hundred and forty-four degrees Fahrenheit. Every month ____ June has been the hottest month ever recorded.</p>	<p>the</p> <p>and</p> <p>to</p>
<p>But that weather seems not to matter as much as the political climate, and the people ____ run the world’s oil companies seem to feel that they’ve come out the other side of their latest heat wave intact. Exxon’s C.E.O., Darren Woods, felt secure ____ last month to explain to a reporter that the world had “waited ____ long” to switch to renewable energy (as if Exxon ____ not played a leading role in that delay). But he has also said that his company would not become an “electron company,” because, unlike oil and gas, renewable energy does not offer the prospect of “above-average returns” for its investors.</p>	<p>as</p> <p>in</p> <p>by</p> <p>since</p>
<p>In Brazil, ____ the Times reported last month that “megafires” in the Amazon are pouring “choking smoke into cities across South America,” Jean Paul Prates, the head of the national oil and gas company,</p>	<p>who</p> <p>enough</p> <p>too</p> <p>had</p>
	<p>where</p>

<p>Petrobras, is planning such ____ rapid increase in oil production that, by 2030, his company might overtake China, Russia, and Kuwait on the list of sovereign-oil giants, moving into third place, ____ Iran and Saudi Arabia. “We will not give up that prerogative,” he said, “because others are not doing their own sacrifice as well.” This celebration of faux realism reached its height at last month’s CERAWEEK gathering, in Houston, a kind of Burning Man for people who burn fossil fuel. The C.E.O. ____ Saudi Aramco, the largest oil producer in the world, told the audience, “We should abandon the fantasy of phasing out oil and gas and ____ invest in them.”</p>	<p>a behind</p>
<p>None of this should come ____ a surprise, considering that in a business-as-usual scenario global fossil-fuel assets would be valued at twenty-five trillion dollars ____ the middle of the ____ decade, but in a world that was serious about going net zero that number would fall by about half. Call it a twelve-trillion-dollar loss — a treasure worth fighting ____, but one dwarfed by the economic damage that burning that fossil fuel would produce as it overheats ____ planet.</p>	<p>of instead as by - next for the</p>
<p>____ overcome the pull of that treasure you need the kind of push that can come only from mobilized public consciousness. We’ve seen a series of such moments in the course of the past decades, beginning, arguably, with the first Earth Day, fifty-four years ago this month, when twenty million Americans poured ____ the streets, and on through to the youth movement that helped provide enough motive power to get the I.R.A. passed and bankers to make their Glasgow proclamations. But that momentum, too, seems to ____ fading, in part because the pandemic made movement-building hard. Last year’s climate march in New York City attracted perhaps seventy-five thousand ____; in 2014, four hundred thousand marched through the streets to the United Nations.</p>	<p>To into be people</p>
<p>Public consciousness, ____ other words, needs another charge. It’s not evident how that can happen in a world as politically divided ____ this one is. (It’s pretty clear that throwing soup on Old Masters now has a diminishing effect.) But ____ thing continues to be popular across ideologies and countries, and that’s solar energy. A survey of more than twenty-one thousand people in twenty-one nations published last September found that more ____ two-thirds favored solar power, compared ____ fourteen per cent who backed fossil energy. Despite all the scoffing from Big Oil and its associated politicians, people seem to recognize a potential beauty ____ relying on the sun which is entirely practical — entirely realistic — now that it’s ____ only the cleanest way to produce energy but also the cheapest.</p>	<p>in as one than with in not</p>
<p>____ you wanted to recharge the climate movement’s battery, in other words, you could plug it into the sun. Giant banks and giant</p>	<p>If</p>

governments need giant popular mobilizations to prod them along — and if the strategic arc of the universe is a rainbow, it won't come _____ without the sun. ♦	out
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4. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/us-journal/prenups-arent-just-for-rich-people-anymore>

<p>Prenups Aren't Just for Rich People Anymore</p> <p>Younger Americans, especially, have found their own use for prenuptial agreements: protecting their spouses from the worst impulses of the American debt-collection system.</p> <p>By Michael Waters July 12, 2022</p> <p>A few months after Sandy Webb moved _____ Indiana to Arizona, in 1994, she and a close friend decided to go _____ for drinks at a bar known for _____ country dancing, about _____ hour from Phoenix, in Apache Junction. Early in the evening, two men approached their table and asked to buy them a round. Sandy said no, then relented. Her friend hit it _____ with one of the men, and Sandy was left talking to the other, a professional carpenter named TJ dressed in Wrangler jeans, boots, and a black cowboy hat. Sandy had recently finalized _____ second divorce, and she wasn't ready to indulge _____ dating. When TJ asked for her phone number, she declined to give it to him, but he insisted _____ giving her his. As she left the bar, she told her friend, "That's _____. I'm _____ going out with you, because I always get stuck with the stupid one."</p> <p>She called TJ a week before Christmas. She didn't know _____ people in Arizona, and those she did had left town _____ the holidays. TJ took her out in the desert for target shooting. Three months _____, they were renting a house together in Apache Junction. Four years after that, they had co-founded a business, a crane service with a mostly residential clientele. TJ bought a house for the two of _____, where they kept chickens, horses, and goats. Like Sandy, he was divorced. He had three kids; Sandy didn't want to have _____ of their own. "I really saw no reason to get married," she said.</p> <p>Another decade passed, together. In early 2009, TJ began getting frequent headaches. Both _____ his parents were in the hospital, and Sandy figured that the headaches were stress-related. But they became _____ debilitating that TJ went to a doctor. He got an MRI and learned</p>	<p>from out its - an</p> <p>off</p> <p>her in on it done</p> <p>many for later</p> <p>them</p> <p>any</p> <p>of</p> <p>so</p>
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that he had cancer, which had already spread to his brain. He was forty-eight. Sandy was forty-three. Staring down the end of ____ life, he asked her to marry him. “At that point, you have ____ option but to say yes,” Sandy told me. She had one stipulation: she wanted a prenup.	his no
Prenups are popularly regarded as a tool of the rich ____ famous, the kind of document that a couple signs when one person’s yearly income bleeds into the seven or eight figures. ____ the public learned, in 2019, that Jeff Bezos, then the world’s richest person, didn’t have a prenup with his then wife, MacKenzie Scott, it prompted a minor uproar. (Bezos and Scott have since divorced.) But prenups have lately found other use cases, for people who are far ____ wealthy. “I think, more and more, what I would call ordinary people are interested in the tidiness and the finality that they perceive they might have ____ they have a prenuptial agreement,” Cary Mogerman, ____ president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, told me.	and When less if the
Twelve years ago, a poll conducted ____ Harris Interactive (now Harris Poll) asked more than two thousand adults what they thought ____ prenups. Three per cent of respondents ____ were married or engaged reported ____ signed a prenuptial agreement. Recently, I asked Harris Poll for details ____ that survey, and the firm offered to pose the question again; this time, fifteen per cent of Americans who were married or engaged reported that they had signed one. According ____ the poll, nearly forty per cent of married or engaged people between the ages of eighteen and thirty-four have signed prenups, ____ just thirteen per cent of those between forty-five and fifty-four have done so. For those fifty-five and above, the figure is below five per cent. It’s a single poll, of course, but its findings reflected ____ I heard from multiple experts: more Americans, particularly younger Americans, are getting prenups. And one likely impetus for this change, according to those experts, is the historic levels ____ debt that many younger Americans have.	by of who having about to while what of
Sandy Webb has worked as an accountant for most of her life, and she knew how ruinous debts could be. TJ had a catastrophic health-insurance plan, but he was still likely to end up on the hook for tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of cancer treatments, which neither he ____ Sandy could afford. By the standard laws of Arizona, Sandy knew, the debt that he racked up could be ____ after he died. Arizona is a “community property” state, where ____ income or property acquired during a marriage is typically split fifty-fifty. If one spouse opens a bank account during the marriage, ____ instance, that account, and all the money within it, is generally joint, ____ a prenup specifies otherwise. There are nine such states, and they include the country’s two most populous, California and Texas. In most of them, including Arizona, the community-property principle extends ____ debt: creditors can seize	 nor hers any for unless to

<p>the community property of both spouses, or ____ garnish their wages, to collect on the debts of one. In community-property states, especially, prenups have become ____ way for some couples to insulate each other from the worst impulses of the American debt-collection system.</p>	<p>even</p>
<p>Sandy and TJ went to a lawyer a week after TJ’s diagnosis. The prenup they ultimately signed declared that each spouse’s income ____ possessions — guns, jewellery, a ten-acre property in southeastern Arizona ____ belonged to Sandy—was owned separately, and that ____ debts acquired during the marriage would fall solely ____ the shoulders of the partner who incurred them. TJ’s medical debts would not become Sandy’s problem.</p>	<p>a</p> <p>and</p> <p>that</p> <p>any – on</p>
<p>In the Americas, prenups date ____ to the early days of colonialism. Among the seventeenth-century Canadian colonists of New France, men outnumbered women six to one. These men often married poor women from French cities, known as the filles du roi, who immigrated to the Americas ____ economic opportunity. The filles du roi — or “king’s daughters,” so called because King Louis XIV helped pay their way, in an effort to grow the population of New France — were so coveted that they could negotiate the terms of their marriage. More than eighty ____ cent of them convinced their husbands to sign prenuptial contracts, according to “Lonely Colonist Seeks Wife: The Forgotten History of America’s First Mail Order Brides,” a paper ____ the law professor Marcia Zug that was published in the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy, in 2012. These contracts often gave women ____ right to keep dowries and other income as their own property, a rarity ____ the time.</p>	<p>back</p> <p>for</p> <p>per</p> <p>by</p> <p>the</p> <p>at</p>
<p>In England and France, where the gender ratio wasn’t nearly ____ lopsided, women didn’t have the same leverage—and, in the Americas, as that ratio evened ____, that negotiating power disappeared. In the nineteenth century, some wealthy women tried to contract around coverture laws ____ gave men sole control of property, but everyone was against them, Zug said. Drawing from a work in progress, she told me the story of Harriet Douglas, a wealthy woman ____, in 1833, agreed to marry a lawyer named Henry Cruger, who ____ pursued her for a decade. She required him ____ sign a prenup that would let her maintain control of her property, estimated to be worth a hundred thousand dollars, equivalent ____ more than three million dollars today. Henry did so, then threw a fit. She offered Henry an allowance, but he insisted that she wasn’t “treating him like a man,” Zug said. He refused to drink the wine ____ their house, insisting that he “did not own it,” and refused to ride in the carriage because it legally belonged to his wife. Writing to Harriet, Henry called their prenup a “poignard of ice” that “portends that you and I are not one,” and he enlisted Harriet’s</p>	<p>as</p> <p>out</p> <p>that</p> <p>who</p> <p>had</p> <p>to</p> <p>to</p> <p>at</p>

friends to convince her to take it _____. One of them urged her “to relieve” her husband “from a state of dependence.”	back
Prenups that addressed the circumstances of divorce—as opposed to death—did not emerge _____ a relatively popular legal tool in the U.S. until after the Second World War. As late as the nineteen-seventies, when couples did sign prenups, courts rarely enforced them, insisting that prenups promoted divorce _____ laying out the worst-case scenario _____ advance. A Florida case from 1970, <i>Posner v. Posner</i> , ruled that prenups should be enforceable as standard practice and helped bring about a sea change, though one that took years to ripple outward. (Ohio, _____ instance, didn’t consistently enforce prenups at divorce until 1984.) It was during the next two decades that the contemporary image of prenups really took hold. “In the nineteen-eighties,” Julie Salamon wrote, in this magazine, a quarter century ago, “as Wall Street players made fortunes and exchanged old wives _____ new ones, the prenuptial agreement became a kind _____ financial instrument, like a junk bond.” An early-nineties prenup signed by Donald Trump and his second wife, Marla Maples—which reportedly limited the payout to Maples _____ the marriage lasted less than five years—both popularized prenups and helped fix a certain idea of them _____ the public imagination. (Salamon quotes a friend of _____ saying, of Trump and Maples, “This wasn’t a marriage. This was _____ lease with an option to buy.”)	as by in for for of if in hers a

5. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/infinite-scroll/what-happened-when-an-extremely-offline-person-tried-tiktok>

<p>What Happened When an Extremely Offline Person Tried TikTok</p> <p>In 2016, I went viral for telling people to quit social media. In 2024, I ignored my own advice.</p> <p>By Cal Newport January 15, 2025</p> <p>In 2013, I wrote a blog post titled “Why I Never Joined Facebook.” Social media _____ grown so ubiquitous that I felt obligated to justify my abstention; I pointed _____ that I didn’t need it because it didn’t solve any actual problems in my life. The post prompted an energetic discussion in the comments section, leading to a series of follow-up essays in which I tried to rebut the arguments for platforms _____ as Facebook and Twitter. “Fear of missing out . . . is not a valid argument for trashing what you already have,” I observed in one earnest passage. In 2016, I consolidated my ideas into a book chapter called “Quit Social</p>	<p>had out</p> <p>such</p>
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Media,” and, when I adapted them into a TEDx talk and a Times op-ed, both ____ viral.	went
I had upset many techno-optimists. The technology writer and researcher Alexandra Samuel, for example, joined me on a radio show and said, “I think it’s ____ more useful to ask yourself how this incredibly powerful medium can actually support you in your ____ personal goals.” But things changed after the 2016 election, one of many unsettling upheavals shaped in part by social media. Public opinion gradually turned ____ big-tech platforms, and my offline status ____ longer seemed so alarming. I moved on, happily disconnected ____ whatever the world’s five billion social-media users were doing with their online lives.	far own
Then, last month, I had surgery and found myself at home for several weeks, recovering. Seeking something ____ interesting and relatively undemanding to occupy my time, I began revisiting my decade-old arguments for quitting social media and wondering how much they still applied. I was particularly interested in TikTok, ____ launched in 2017 and quickly displaced Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for many young people. It ____ my attention because it was so common among the college students I teach, and the Supreme Court was in the process of deciding whether the U.S. should be allowed to ban it—or ____ force ____ Chinese owners to sell. (A ruling will be released any day now.) So I took a step that would have nauseated an earlier version of myself: I downloaded the TikTok app, while I still could, to find out what all the ____ was about.	against no from
When I sign ____ for the first time, TikTok asks me to choose my interests from a long list illustrated by cheerful emojis. I select “Life Hacks,” “Science and Education,” and “Sports.” Then I’m ____.	both
The first video shows the Clemson University baseball team playing an exhibition game against the Savannah Bananas, a professional touring squad. The Clemson infield, for some inscrutable reason, starts dancing. I swipe ____.	which
A new video begins, showing someone selecting shoes at a store. The video is only ten seconds long; by the time I’ve finished jotting down some notes, it has already started replaying. I hastily swipe again. The next video plays tranquil music ____ a car slowly drives toward Yosemite National Park. The algorithm must ____ noticed that I lingered on the wintry scene: the next video shows someone sweeping snow ____ a porch with some kind of rotating broom contraption. Then the feed takes a darker turn, which makes me want to scroll ____ faster. I see a news story about a person ____ pushed onto subway tracks in Manhattan—swipe—a Trump video set to ominous music—swipe—“Top 15 Most Ghetto High Schools in New Jersey”—swipe—and someone making fun of a server’s accent in a restaurant. I shut ____ the app.	caught else its
The velocity of the clips and the rawness of their emotion is breathtaking. I immediately feel old, like a grandparent encountering a smartphone for the first time. What I notice most, though, is TikTok’s	fuss in
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<p>lack of obvious purpose. In a 2013 blog post called “Why I’m (Still) Not Going to Join Facebook,” I described a common argument _____ favor of legacy social media: that it “makes it possible to maintain lightweight, high-frequency contact with a large _____ of people.” This is clearly not the function of TikTok, which does not revolve _____ following friends or posting updates about one’s life. When I first signed _____, the app didn’t even require me to pick a username; it asked only for my phone number and birthday. According to Pew Research, the typical TikTok user _____ adds information to their account’s “bio” field. They’re happy to remain anonymous consumers of content. (I’d later learn that many people share TikToks _____ texts or instant messages.)</p> <p>My blog post also considered the once sacrosanct idea that social media provides important “professional benefits.” After I wrote my <i>Times</i> piece, the paper went so far _____ to publish a rebuttal from Patrick Gillooly, then the director of digital communications and social media at Monster, a Web site for recruiters and job seekers. “As someone who spends the majority of his work time on social media helping people find careers they’ll love, I disagree with his assessment,” Gillooly said of my piece. “I believe that you should <i>not</i> quit social media—and that doing _____ will actually damage your career.” Does anyone other than TikTok influencers think that TikTok is somehow beneficial to their career? The opposite possibility, that a social post could _____ you fired, might be more likely. (Fittingly, videos about getting fired _____ posting on TikTok are a popular genre on TikTok.)</p> <p>Then there’s the once popular argument that social media is an online “town square”—that a Twitter trend, a widely _____ Facebook post, or an Instagram meme can become a locus _____ collective conversation. Some legacy platforms, most notably X, still cling _____ this notion, but TikTok and Reels, the part of Instagram that spotlights short-form video, don’t seem to care about shared experiences. Some videos might get viewed millions of times, but, in general, feeds are customized by _____ user’s individualized curation algorithm. My encounters with dancing baseball players and rotating snow brooms were not grist _____ the mill of public discussion; this experience was unique to me.</p> <p>I found these realizations dislocating. A decade _____, I understood the arguments in favor of social media, even if I didn’t always agree with them. Seeking clarity, I called Zack, a twenty-four-year-old former student of mine. I had a simple question for him: why?</p> <p>“I use it pretty much exclusively either to view content that my friends have shared with me,” Zack tells me, “_____ to look for content to share with my friends and family.” As _____ on cue, he’s interrupted by a text message from a friend. It links to a TikTok video, which he forwards to me. The clip, which is captioned “Always ready,” opens _____ a shot of feet on a bedroom carpet, along with the text: “Golf: ‘buddy be ready by 8am.’ ” Expectant music plays as the feet walk toward _____ appears to be a sleeping figure on a bed. When a hand pulls back the covers, however, the camera suddenly pans up to reveal a young man standing</p>	<p>In</p> <p>number around up</p> <p>never</p> <p>via</p> <p>as</p> <p>so</p> <p>get for</p> <p>read of to</p> <p>each</p> <p>for</p> <p>ago</p> <p>or if</p> <p>with</p> <p>what</p>
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<p>on the bed in full golf attire, holding a club as though ready to swing. The text changes: “me at 7:59 am.” The music swells. Then it’s done. I’m shocked by ____ short it is.</p> <p>“That’s it?” I ask.</p> <p>“It’s funny!” Zack says.</p> <p>He forwards me another TikTok that his brother enjoyed. It shows the Swiss national soccer team playing a match, along with the words, “____ explaining what toblerone is to someone that’s never had 1.” An announcer uses the phrase “neat little Swiss triangles.” Five seconds have passed; the video ends.</p> <p>I sense that funny TikToks take ____ a special challenge: using visuals to encode as much information as possible in as little time as possible. For the viewer, there’s a joy ____ decoding them. Zack sends me a calculus gag: a man and a woman are on a date, having a drink. A caption floats above the woman: “I’ll change him.” Near her face is d/dx, the mathematical symbol for taking a derivative. Superimposed on the man is the function e^x. You have to ____ studied calculus to know that the derivative of e^x is itself e^x. I let ____ an audible chortle. Then I ask myself, How many people could possibly appreciate this? “That meme format also requires context to understand,” Zack says. “Very specific humor for a small subset of people.”</p> <p>Sometimes when Zack hangs ____ with his brother, they ____ browse clips on TikTok. “We’ll watch them and laugh together,” he explains. His sister, ____, is ____ interested in comedy than in getting glimpses of various activities. “I feel like I’m living in other peoples’ lives,” she recently told him.</p> <p>I ask ____ of my students, a nineteen-year-old undergraduate named Lizzie, how she uses TikTok. She describes a sense of authenticity that comes with the democratic nature of the platform: “anyone can go viral.” She sends me a minute-long montage of soldiers coming home from deployment and surprising ____ children, played against patriotic background music. It’s not a slick production, but it’s undeniably touching.</p> <p>She also sends a TikTok that shows ____ making of a Caprese-style sandwich. Watching the basil getting crushed and the crusty bread ____ sliced is oddly hypnotic. But can someone actually follow these recipes, given how quickly they roll past? “People use them for relaxation and learning,” she says.</p> <p>A decade ago, I viewed social media as Manichaeian: these platforms could distract and mislead ____ users, but they could also topple dictators and enable free expression. These competing impulses have always been ____ war with each other. Serious thinkers have written articles and books about how to make social media a force for good, while critics such as Jaron Lanier, who wrote a 2018 book titled “Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now,” expressed skepticism ____ that vision. But much of the content on TikTok, and on comparable services like Instagram Reels and YouTube</p>	<p>how</p> <p>Me</p> <p>on</p> <p>in</p> <p>have out</p> <p>out – will</p> <p>however - less</p> <p>another</p> <p>their</p> <p>the</p> <p>being</p> <p>their</p> <p>at</p> <p>about</p>
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<p>Shorts, borders _____ nihilism. It seems to revel in meaninglessness, sometimes even poking fun at the idea that a video should be useful. The most popular platforms are saying the quiet part _____ loud—that there is no deeply meaningful justification for their digital wares—and their users seem to understand and accept this new agreement. TikTok is “a gold mine for people with short attention _____ who crave quick bursts of dopamine,” Lizzie told me.</p> <p>Somehow, this state of affairs seems less dangerous to me than the landscape a decade ago. In _____ days, I felt a strong cultural compulsion to use social media. I’ve written about how, at the time, arguments against such technologies were seen as _____ only eccentric but also problematic—a glitch in the matrix to _____ repaired. These pressures have largely dissipated. A platform like TikTok is too self-evidently trivial and proudly individualized to demand that everyone _____ part. Zack said that, if he stopped using the app tomorrow, “no one would notice.” At the same time, legacy platforms such as X and Facebook have grown politically polarized, fractured, and out _____ touch with the users who used to defend them. It’s difficult to remember a time when it was _____ easy to forgo social media.</p> <p>To be sure, there is something disturbing about videos that are so effectively optimized to capture our attention. Social-media companies are still scarily good at persuading us to _____ scrolling; TikTok reached a billion active monthly users faster than any of _____ competitors. And then there is the grim possibility raised by many lawmakers, that TikTok’s ubiquity on American phones poses a national-security threat _____ China. Still, the content I saw seemed less sinister than the tribalism, mobbing, and outrage-farming that has been so common on older platforms. Some of the videos were stupid, but in a weirdly comforting way; some were sneakily smart. It’s a form of concentrated escapism marketed _____ a weary generation that is only now reaching adulthood.</p> <p>Strikingly, the young people I interviewed didn’t seem to harbor any particular loyalty to TikTok. Zack also uses Instagram Reels, which has emerged in recent years as his favorite TikTok clone. Indeed, _____ our conversation, he often forgot which platform first served him some specific clip that _____ to mind. (He sometimes browses YouTube Shorts, too, but he considers its algorithm less effective _____ surfacing material he really likes.) None of my sources offered a full-throated defense of today’s platforms, as so many commentators were eager _____ do a decade ago; yesterday’s techno-utopianism has been replaced by shoulder-shrugging amusement.</p> <p>When I was finally able to get out of bed again, and my schedule once again began to fill _____, I found I had no interest in continuing to use the apps I’d tested. Maybe the pace is _____ too fast; maybe the endless references and self-aware irony are _____ nimble for my middle-aged brain. I appreciate a good calculus joke, but I don’t need to see a dozen more; my kids need my attention, my back still hurts from surgery, and</p>	<p>on</p> <p>out</p> <p>spans</p> <p>those</p> <p>not be</p> <p>take</p> <p>of</p> <p>this</p> <p>keep its</p> <p>from</p> <p>to</p> <p>during</p> <p>came at</p> <p>to</p> <p>up just too</p>
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I have another college lecture to prepare. When Zack told me that no one would care if he left TikTok, I asked how he himself would feel about quitting. He thought for a moment, then said, “I would probably forget about it in a short amount of time.” ♦	
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6. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/fault-lines/the-joys-of-moomscrolling>

<p style="text-align: center;">The Joys of Moomscrolling As Tove Jansson’s lovable creatures turn eighty, new generations are discovering a world where “trolling” means weathering life’s many anxieties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Jon Allsop August 22, 2025</p> <p>If you ____ to drop ____ my apartment, you’d see a lot of Moomins. My girlfriend and I own all sorts of trinkets bearing ____ likeness: a selection of mugs, a teapot, a tea towel (that we framed and put on the wall), a bedside night light, a pair of light-up key rings, a necklace, a wallet, a plastic model from a vending machine in Japan, at least one Christmas-tree decoration, a poster, and a pair of fridge magnets that, ____ the absence of a magnetic fridge door, we’ve posed on either side of our fireplace. They look like heraldic bas-reliefs.</p> <p>What are Moomins, you ____ be wondering. They’re children’s characters, dreamed ____ decades ago by the Finnish writer and artist Tove Jansson, that are white and rotund, with pointy ears, swishy tails, and rounded snouts; they’re sometimes likened to hippos, which is fair, even if the comparison doesn’t particularly resonate ____ me. (To me, they just look like Moomins, a fact that is partly because I’ve been familiar ____ them since my early childhood, but is also a reflection of their singular visual identity; as Sheila Heti once put ____ in this magazine, they are “strangely familiar, as though Jansson happened to look in a new direction and find these tender and serious fellow-creatures, who ____ been with us all along.”) Then again, you might <i>not</i> be wondering what Moomins are—they have fans all over the world, and my girlfriend and I are far from alone in ____ stuffed our home with their merchandise, worldwide sales of which reportedly top eight hundred million dollars ____ year. (The Moomin mugs, ____ wrapped in a gorgeous illustration, are the jewels in this crown, and are highly collectible; in 2021, one sold ____ auction for nearly thirty thousand dollars.) Other fans include the actor Lily Collins, a.k.a. Emily of “in Paris” fame, ____ not only collects the merchandise but named her daughter Tove and hosted the introductory episode of an official Moomin podcast.</p>	
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<p>On the podcast, which premièred in the spring of 2023, Collins said that, when she first started collecting Moomin paraphernalia, it was “impossible” to find in the U.S. This has changed in ____ years: alongside the podcast launch, Moomin Characters (the company that manages the rights to Jansson’s creations) and Barnes & Noble announced “a significant new partnership to make Jansson’s literature widely accessible to American audiences, ____ in stores and online” (including, yes, a plan to sell mugs); ____ then, there have been collaborations with Urban Outfitters and luxury labels including Rei Kawakubo’s Comme des Garçons. This year, ____ marks the eightieth anniversary of the Moomins’ début, there have been further signs of a Finnish invasion, including an ongoing exhibition at the Brooklyn Public Library—the first ____ dedicated to Jansson in the U.S.—which reflects Jansson’s progressive values. She was ____ committed pacifist and antifascist, and, early in her career, she worked as a political cartoonist, poking fun at dictators; Linda E. Johnson, the president and C.E.O. of the Brooklyn Public Library, has noted that Jansson was also openly queer, at ____ time when being gay was criminalized in Finland, and that the decision to highlight her work was timed ____ coincide with Pride Month. “It speaks to ____ is going on culturally,” Johnson said, “and lets our audience know: The Brooklyn Public Library is not backing ____.” The exhibition is titled “The Door Is Always Open.” (Earlier in the summer, a Moomin public art work in London, produced in partnership ____ an initiative celebrating refugees, bore the same moniker.)</p> <p>An executive at Moomin Characters told the <i>New York Times</i> recently that Jansson’s creations “are ____ discovered in the U.S. by new generations, spreading word from person to person.” Of course, ____ of this word-spreading is happening on social media. There have ____ been dedicated Moomin communities on Facebook and Tumblr. The <i>Times</i> reported that Gen Z is intensifying the trend—posting about the Moomins on TikTok, finding old animations on YouTube (that are closer to Jansson’s drawings than more modern 3-D offerings), and, in the process, ushering the Moomins ____ “a global pantheon of cuteness.” This cuteness is, surely, a key driver of the Moomins’ online appeal, as is the sense that the characters have an “inherent gentle wonderment”—as one writer recently put it after visiting the Brooklyn exhibition—that offers an escape from the ____ anxieties of modern life. The Moomins’ association with escapism is not a new thing: Jansson once wrote that she created them when she “wanted to get ____ from my gloomy thoughts” and enter “an unbelievable world where everything was natural and benign—and possible.” When, in the nineteen-fifties, a London newspaper that commissioned a Moomin comic strip stipulated there ____ no politics, sex, or death, Jansson is said to ____ replied that she didn’t know anything about the government, that the Moomins can’t anatomically have sex, and that she once killed a hedgehog, but nothing else.</p>	<p>recent</p> <p>both since</p> <p>which</p> <p>ever a</p> <p>a to what down</p> <p>with</p> <p>being much long</p> <p>into</p> <p>many</p> <p>away</p> <p>be - have</p> <p>yet</p>
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And ____ the books that Jansson wrote about the Moomins contain, sometimes explicitly and other times ____ way of metaphor, political themes—war, displacement, imminent annihilation, environmental catastrophe—that hardly serve as distractions from the many dangers of the world, then or now.	by
Time to box up the mugs, then? Not exactly. While some of the Moomins’ newer online fans might be ignorant ____ the angst—not to mention weirdness—of Jansson’s œuvre, I don’t see ____ incompatibility between her cute illustrations and the ambient existential dread that pervades their adventures. If anything, this juxtaposition makes the Moomins perfect guides ____ our muddled moment, online and off. Ultimately, we ____ all usefully spend a little less time doomscrolling, and a little more time Moomscrolling.	of any
Technically, it isn’t quite right to say that this year marks the eightieth anniversary of the Moomins’ début. Jansson first drew a Moomin-like creature (intending ____ to be ugly, not cute) when she was a child, sketching it onto an outhouse wall following an argument with her brother about the merits of Immanuel Kant; later, her uncle ____ caution her against raiding the cupboards for a midnight snack by warning that, if she did, the “Moomintrolls” that live behind the stove would press their cold snouts against her legs. At some point after Jansson started contributing satirical cartoons to <i>Garm</i> , a Finnish magazine, she began drawing a character resembling a Moomin ____ part of her signature. In one cover illustration, it can be seen peering out from behind the “M” of “GARM.” A caricature of Adolf Hitler is perched on the “G.”	through could
During the Winter War—which began when the Soviet Union invaded Finland in November, 1939, and would go on to drive hundreds of thousands of Finns from their homes—Jansson started work on ____ would become the first Moomin book, known today as “The Moomins and the Great Flood,” though it wouldn’t be published ____ 1945. War was the reality from which Jansson would later say she wanted to escape, but as Heti noted in her review of a pair of works about Jansson, the “Great Flood” is “fascinating for how un-escapist it seems.” The book begins deep in a forest, where a young character named Moomintroll and his mother are searching for “a snug, warm place where they could build a house to crawl ____ when winter came.” Their subsequent adventures have a dreamlike quality, with each salvation (coming ____ a garden of lemonade and candy, for example) quickly giving ____ to a fresh peril (tummyache, in the case of the candy). The gravest danger comes from the titular flood, which drives people from their homes; it would be presentist to read this as a parable for the climate crisis, but it clearly resonates as _____. And the illustrations have yet to take on the vibrant, rounded aesthetic that defines the modern Moomin brand. The characters’ snouts are more pronounced. Clean lines sometimes dissolve ____ washes of dark ink.	it would as
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<p>The “Great Flood” has often been considered apart from the subsequent Moomin canon: Jansson later referred to it as “a banal story without any personality”; it was translated into English only in 2005, after she died. But similar themes run _____ the later books. “Comet in Moominland” (1946) can be read as an allegory for the fear of nuclear apocalypse (a resonance that must _____ eluded me when I read the novel as a child, realizing it only years later during a trip to an exhibit at the Moomin museum in the Finnish city of Tampere). Wilson describes the sixth Moomin book, “Moominland Midwinter,” as containing “the most devastating account of depression in 20th-century literature,” and notes that, in a later comic strip, a psychiatrist puts Moomintroll on meds that shrink him out of existence. The last of Jansson’s Moomin novels, “Moominvalley in November,” sees the Moomin family _____ missing, and a variety of side characters reflect _____ their elusiveness. Wilson and others have likened it to “Waiting for Godot.”</p> <p>This is not to say that the Moomin books are depressing. Some of them have overtly happy endings: the flood leads to a new home for the Moomin family; the comet misses. And they are funny, able to find levity in impending disaster. (When one character defines the word “catastrophe,” another counters that it is, “in other words—‘fuss.’”) Over all, my abiding memory of the books is that they are full of life, despite the world’s complications. “It _____ be awful if the earth exploded,” a different character says, in “Comet.” “It’s so beautiful.” This philosophy, I think, is what keeps the Moomins in my heart (and my home). If the underlying themes can be anxiety-provoking, then the Moomins themselves are anchoring presences—whatever _____ happen to the world, and whether or not we can control it.</p> <p>I am, surely, not the only one who sees the Moomins like this—one young visitor to the Brooklyn exhibition told the <i>Times</i> that, _____ addition to their being cute, she likes that they are “anxious,” a vibe she picked _____, apparently, without even reading the books—even if, for other new fans, cuteness alone is the draw.</p> <p>It’s hard to say how Jansson would _____ reacted to her creation’s growing online purchase; even while she was alive, she, like her books, could be contradictory. (The books _____ be read as containing anti-consumerist messages, but Jansson had hands-on involvement in the development of early Moomin merchandise.)</p> <p>Evergreen advice, and anyone minded to log off could do worse than pick up one of Jansson’s books. And yet the Moomins can also serve as an antidote _____ the toxicity of much modern internet discourse. Boel Westin, a biographer of Jansson, has described one Moomin philosophy as holding that “life _____ isn’t peaceful, but you can form a community of family and other creatures built _____ solidarity.” And, sometimes, merch. One beautiful mug at a time. ♦</p>	<p>through</p> <p>have</p> <p>go on</p> <p>would</p> <p>may</p> <p>in</p> <p>up</p> <p>have</p> <p>can</p> <p>to</p> <p>itself on</p>
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7. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/open-questions/whats-happening-to-reading>

<p style="text-align: center;">What's Happening to Reading? For many people, A.I. may be bringing the age of traditional text to an end.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Joshua Rothman June 17, 2025</p> <p>What do you read, and why? A few decades ago, these weren't urgent questions. Reading was an unremarkable activity, essentially unchanged _____ the advent of the modern publishing industry, in the nineteenth century. In a 2017 Shouts & Murmurs titled "Before the Internet," the writer Emma Rathbone captured the spirit of reading as it used to be: "Before the Internet, you could laze _____ on a park bench in Chicago reading some Dean Koontz, and that would be a legit thing to do and no one would ever know you _____ done it _____ you told them." Reading was just reading, and no matter what you chose to read—the paper, Proust, "The Power Broker"—you basically did it by moving your eyes across a page, in silence, _____ your own pace and on your own schedule. Today, the nature of reading _____ shifted.</p> <p>_____ of people still enjoy traditional books and periodicals, and there are even readers for _____ the networked age has enabled a kind of hyper-literacy; for them, a smartphone is a library in their pocket. Some have become adept _____ skimming vast amounts of information online, but _____ practiced in sustained attention. For others, however, the old-fashioned, ideal sort of reading—intense, extended, beginning-to-end encounters with carefully crafted texts—has become almost anachronistic. These readers might start a book on an e-reader and then continue it on the _____, via audio narration. Or they might forgo books entirely, choosing instead to indulge _____ the quick satisfactions of digital feeds, spending evenings browsing Apple News and Substack before drifting down Reddit's lazy river. There's something _____ diffuse and concentrated about reading now; it involves a lot of random words flowing across a screen, while the lurking presence of YouTube, Fortnite, Netflix, and _____ like insures that, once we've begun to read, we must continually choose _____ to stop.</p> <p>This shift has taken decades, and it's been driven by technologies that have been disproportionately adopted by the young. Perhaps for these reasons, _____ momentousness has been obscured. In 2023, the National Endowment for the Arts reported that, over the preceding decade, the proportion of adults who read at least one book a year _____ fallen from fifty-five per cent to forty-eight per cent. That's a striking change, but modest compared to _____ has happened among teenagers: the National Center for Education Statistics—which has recently been gutted by the Trump Administration—found that, _____ roughly the</p>	<p>Since</p> <p>around</p> <p>had - unless</p> <p>at has Plenty whom</p> <p>at less</p> <p>go in</p> <p>both</p> <p>the not</p> <p>its</p> <p>had</p> <p>what</p> <p>over</p>
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<p>same period, the number of thirteen-year-olds who read for fun “almost every day” fell from twenty-seven per cent to fourteen per cent. Predictably, college professors have been complaining with more than usual urgency about phone-addled students _____ struggle to read anything of substantial _____ or complexity.</p> <p>Some of the evidence for the drop in literacy is thin. One widely discussed study, for instance, judges students _____ their ability to parse the muddy and semantically tortuous opening of “Bleak House”; this is a little like assessing swimmers on their ability to cross fifty yards of molasses. And there are other reasons to be sanguine _____ the slide away from books, given what so many of us actually like to read. If we binge “Stranger Things” instead of reading Stephen King, or listen to self-help podcasts instead of buying self-help books, is that the end of civilization? On some level, declines in traditional reading are connected to the efflorescence of information in the digital age. Do we really want to return to a time when there was _____ to read, watch, hear, and learn? Still, whatever we think of these changes, they seem _____ to accelerate. Over the past few decades, many scholars have seen the decline _____ reading as the closing of the “Gutenberg Parenthesis”—a period of history, inaugurated by the invention of the printing press, _____ which a structured ecosystem of published print ruled. The internet, the theory went, closed the parenthesis _____ returning us to a more free-flowing, decentralized, and conversational mode of communication. _____ of reading books, we can argue in the comments. Some theorists have even proposed that we’re returning to a kind of oral culture—what the historian Walter Ong described as a “secondary orality,” in which gab and give-and-take are enhanced by the presence of text. The ascendance of podcasts, newsletters, and memes has lent credence to this view, though it has also tended to deter _____ the slower, more reflective practices of traditional reading. “The Joe Rogan Experience” could be understood as a couple of guys around a campfire, passing _____ knowledge through conversation, like the ancient Greeks.</p> <p>In retrospect, though, there’s something almost quaint about the oral-culture hypothesis. We might say that it was largely developed during the Zuckerberg Parenthesis—a period of history, inaugurated by the invention of Facebook, in which social media ruled. _____ one inside this parenthesis imagined how much of a threat artificial intelligence _____ soon pose to the conversational internet. We have already entered a world in which the people you encounter online are sometimes not actually people; instead, they are conjured using A.I. that’s been trained _____ unimaginably vast quantities of text. It’s as though the books have come _____ life, and are getting revenge by creating something new—a marriage of text, thought, and conversation that will revise the utility and value of the written word.</p> <p>In January, the economist and blogger Tyler Cowen announced that he _____ begun “writing for the AIs.” It was now reasonable to assume, he suggested, that everything he published was _____ “read” not just by</p>	<p>who length</p> <p>on</p> <p>about</p> <p>less likely in</p> <p>during</p> <p>by Instead</p> <p>from</p> <p>on</p> <p>No would</p> <p>on to</p> <p>had being</p>
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people but also by A.I. systems—and he’d come to regard this second kind of readership as important. “With very ____ exceptions, even thinkers and writers who are famous in their lifetimes are eventually forgotten,” Cowen noted. But A.I.s might not forget; in fact, if you furnished them with enough of your text, they might extract from it “a model of how you think,” with which future readers could interact. “Your descendants, or maybe future fans, won’t have to page through a lot of dusty old books to get an inkling of your ideas,” Cowen wrote.	few
Cowen can think ____ way because large language models, such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT or Anthropic’s Claude, are, among other things, reading machines. It’s not exactly right to say that they “read,” in the human sense: an L.L.M. can’t be moved by what it reads, because it has no emotions, and ____ heart can’t race in suspense. But it’s also undeniable that there are aspects of reading at which A.I.s excel at a superhuman level. During its training, an L.L.M. will “read” and “understand” an unimaginably large quantity of text. Later, it will be able to recall the substance of that text instantaneously (if not always perfectly), and to draw connections, ____ comparisons, and extract insights, which it can bring to bear on new pieces of text, on which it hasn’t been trained, ____ outrageous speed. The systems are like college graduates who, while they were at school, literally did <i>all</i> the reading. And they can read more, if you give them assignments.	this
I’ve known a few people who seem to ____ read everything, and learning from them has been life-changing. A.I. can’t substitute for ____ individuals because it’s essentially generic and consensus-driven; you won’t look to ChatGPT as a role model for the life of the mind, or thrill to Gemini’s grand theories or idiosyncratic insights. But A.I. has readerly strengths that lie precisely in its impersonality. On David Perell’s “How I Write” podcast, Cowen explains that, as he reads, he peppers a chatbot with questions about whatever he doesn’t understand; the A.I. never tires of such questions and, ____ answering them, draws on a range of knowledge that no human being ____ access so quickly. This turns any text into a kind of springboard or syllabus. But A.I. can also simplify: if you’re struggling with the opening of “Bleak House,” you can ask for it to be rewritten using easier, more modern English. “Gas looming through the fog in divers places in the streets, much as the sun may, from the spongy fields, be seen to loom by husbandman and ploughboy,” Dickens wrote. Claude takes a more direct path: “Gas lamps glow dimly through the fog at various spots throughout the streets, much like how the sun might appear to farmers working in misty fields.”	its
In this way, readers who are armed ____ A.I. may find themselves blurring the ____ between primary and secondary sources—especially if they read material for which they believe it’s possible to separate form from content. Many people are already comfortable doing this: since 2012, the Berlin-based company Blinkist, which touts itself as “the future of reading,” has been offering fifteen-minute summaries of popular nonfiction books, in ____ text and audio format. Or consider <i>Reader’s</i>	make
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<p><i>Digest Condensed Books</i>, a subscription-based anthology which published, on a seasonal basis, handsome hardcover volumes containing four or five novels that had _____ trimmed to roughly half their original size. The books were popular—in 1987, the <i>Times</i> reported that one and a half million readers bought ten million volumes annually—and, when I was growing _____, my parents kept a shelf of them in our house; without really thinking about it, I read a few “condensed” thrillers by Dick Francis and Nora Roberts. If I were writing an academic paper on Francis’s novel “Whip Hand,” from 1979, I’d get in big trouble _____ relying on the condensed version. But if _____ I’m after is the story, the vibe, the suspense, I might be justified in feeling that I’d “read” the book. Certainly, I’d be unlikely to seek out the unabridged version.</p> <p>In our current reading regime, summarized or altered texts are the exception, not the rule. But over the next decade or _____, that polarity may well reverse: we may routinely start with alternative texts and only later decide to seek out originals, in roughly the same way _____ we now download samples of new books to our Kindles before committing _____ them. Because A.I. can generate abridgments, summaries, and other condensed editions _____ demand, we may even switch _____ versions as circumstances dictate—the way that, today, you might decide to listen to a podcast at “2x” speed, or quit a boring TV show and turn to Wikipedia to find out how it ended. Pop songs often come in different edits—the clean edit, and various E.D.M. remixes. _____ a writer, I may not want to see my text refracted in this way. But the power of refraction won’t be _____ to control; it will lie with readers and their A.I.s. Together, they will collapse the space between reading and editing.</p> <p>It’s reasonable to argue that some kinds of writing shouldn’t, or perhaps can’t, be summarized. If you read a summary of Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels—Lila did this, Lenù did that—you cheat yourself. Perhaps Douglas R. Hofstadter’s “Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid” could be boiled down to its key concepts, and maybe a chatbot could explain them to you more clearly than Hofstadter does—but length _____ difficulty are part of the point of that book. And surely readers _____ continue to value the authentic voices of their fellow human beings. Recently, I’ve been reading Tolstoy’s “Childhood, Boyhood, Youth.” It’s full of German phrases, odd historical details, and Russian cultural nuances that I don’t understand. Even so, I like to skip the footnotes; I want to stay in the flow of the story, and _____ Tolstoy’s spell. The proportion of people who simply love old-fashioned reading may be shrinking, but it won’t shrink to zero, or anywhere _____ it.</p> <p>Still, I can’t help wondering _____ the intrinsic integrity of writing might prove to be less powerful than it seems. There was a time when it was hard to imagine that whole songs might someday be composed around, or of, samples; today, sampling is unremarkable, and we perceive the fluidity of musical production as a feature, not a bug. Is it such a stretch to imagine remix culture coming to reading? Which of the _____ versions of New Order’s “Blue Monday” is the real one? Does it matter, as long as</p>	<p>been</p> <p>up</p> <p>for what</p> <p>so</p> <p>that to</p> <p>on - between</p> <p>As</p> <p>mine</p> <p>and will</p> <p>under</p> <p>near if</p> <p>many</p>
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<p>you love the song? Similarly, if I read my version of “My Brilliant Friend,” and you read yours, aren’t we both fans of Ferrante?</p> <p>What will happen to reading culture as reading becomes automated? Suppose we’re headed _____ a future in which text is seen as fluid, fungible, refractable, abstractable. In this future, people will often read by asking for a text to be _____ shorter and more to-the-point, or to be changed into something different, like a podcast or multi-text report. It will be easy to get the gist of a piece of writing, to feel as if you know it, and so any decision to encounter the text itself will involve a positive acceptance of work. Some writers will respond _____ trying to beguile human readers through force of personality; others will simply assume that they’re “writing for the A.I.s.” Perhaps new stylistic approaches will aim to repel automated reading, establishing zones of reading for humans _____. The people who actually read “originals” will be rare, and they’ll have insights others lack, and enjoy experiences others forgo—but the era in which being “well-read” is a proxy for being educated or intelligent will largely be _____. It will be difficult to separate the deep readers from the superficial ones; perhaps, if A.I.-assisted reading proves useful enough, those terms won’t necessarily apply. Text may get treated like a transitional medium, a temporary resting place for ideas. A piece of writing, which today is often seen as an end point, a culmination, a finished unit of effort, may, for better and worse, be experienced as a stepping stone _____ something else. ♦</p>	<p>toward</p> <p>made</p> <p>by</p> <p>only</p> <p>over</p> <p>to</p>
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8. Prirejeno po:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/07/how-we-grow-up-understanding-adolescence-matt-richtel-book-review>

<p>Is Technology Really Ruining Teens’ Lives?</p> <p>In recent years, an irresistibly intuitive hypothesis has both salved and fuelled parental anxieties: it’s the phones.</p> <p>By Molly Fischer June 30, 2025</p> <p>In early 2021, the journalist Matt Richtel spoke to a father who was a _____ weeks into a nightmare. Tatnai Burnett was a doctor, his wife was a therapist, and, _____ middle school, their daughter Elaniv _____ seemed to be the happy beneficiary of loving parents and a stable home. Then, _____ apparent external cause, she became depressed and began cutting herself. Her parents sought treatment, _____ medication and therapy, but on March 1, 2021, Elaniv took an overdose of pills. She arrived _____ the hospital conscious, then started hallucinating and having seizures, before going _____ cardiac arrest and being placed on life support. She died on March 5th, shortly before her sixteenth birthday. Later _____</p>	<p>few</p> <p>until - had</p> <p>without including at</p> <p>into that</p>
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month, her father tried to make sense of what had happened ____ talking to a reporter.	while
Richtel was at work on what ____ become “The Inner Pandemic,” a 2022 series for the New York <i>Times</i> about American teens’ mental health—which, ____ many measures, had been deteriorating for some time. “I could barely hold it together,” he writes in his new book, “How We Grow Up” (Mariner), recalling his harrowing conversation with Burnett. “I was a journalist, yes, but more than that a father of two children who ____ were on the verge of adolescence.” Richtel’s response was visceral. “I desperately wanted to understand,” he writes. In recent years, a seductively intuitive hypothesis to explain stories like Elaniv’s has ____ shape: <i>it’s the phones</i> . A smartphone, equipped with TikTok and Instagram, contains in one sleek package an assortment of forces that might make a teen unhappy—toxic social dynamics, unrealistic body image, incitement ____ paralyzing self-consciousness, even a reason to avoid such fundamentals of well-being as a good night’s sleep. And—parents and professional commentators generally acknowledge—phones don’t make adults feel so great, ____.	would
The explanatory power of technology is tantalizing. (In Elaniv’s case, there was ____ obvious tech factor, but her parents still grasped after the dominant narrative: “We controlled electronics, monitored friendships,” Burnett tells Richtel, helplessly.) The phone consensus is bipartisan, appealing to right-wing moralism and left-wing anti-corporate sentiment ____.	by
States including Florida, Utah, California, and New York have all moved to variously restrict teens’ access to social media, or, if you like, to restrict social-media companies’ access to teens; Texas recently came close to passing a bill that would have banned minors ____ social media altogether.	them-selves
A flock of whistle-blowers, journalists, and documentarians have sought both to illuminate the situation and to service parental anxieties. Alarming statistics circulate, ____ with lists of milestones missed and failures of intellectual and social engagement. Talk to ____ high-school teacher and anecdotal evidence of a phone-beholden generation abounds. But nailing ____ the particulars of the problem proves more slippery. Which digital media are bad, under ____ circumstances, and for whom? According to one oft-cited figure from ____ 2022 Pew Research Center report, forty-six per cent of teens say that they are online “almost constantly,” a statement that somehow has the ring of ____ truth and hyperbole. It’s easy to imagine a lot of teens saying that, and harder to know what they mean. (The survey’s ____ possible responses were “several times a week or less often,” “about once a day,” and “several times a day,” all of ____ suggest a formal and polite level of acquaintance with one’s smartphone.) In 2023, the Surgeon General released an advisory titled “Social Media and Youth Mental Health,” which called ____ more research. “Nearly 70% of parents say parenting is now more difficult than it was 20 years ago, with technology and social	taken
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media as the top two cited reasons,” the advisory notes. Yet, _____ it takes the form of a statistic, this statement bears only a tenuous relationship to anything quantifiable. For one thing, “parents” here refers to people with children under the _____ of eighteen—a pool with limited firsthand expertise about what it was like to be a parent twenty years ago. In “How We Grow Up,” Richtel expands his reporting to take in the experience of contemporary adolescence more generally. _____ hope, he explains, is to answer a pair of broad questions. First: “What is the core, universal purpose of adolescence?” And second: “Why is adolescence undergoing unprecedented change? What is happening right now?” Nowhere in his title _____ the term “online” or “social media” appear, but the image on the book’s cover seems to supply a predictable answer to the latter line of inquiry: a big, blurry phone, clutched in two hands and held aloft, obscuring the face of a teen.	though
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The conversation that Richtel’s book joins began in earnest nearly a decade ago, with Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State. Twenge was already a generational diagnostician when she set _____ to analyze young people born between 1995 and 2012. Previously, she _____ written a book on millennials (born in the eighties and early nineties): “Generation Me,” published in 2006, promises in its subtitle to assess “Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever _____.” With “iGen,” her 2017 best-seller, she offers an account of “Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood—and _____ That Means for the Rest of Us.” The book supplies a term that achieved no widespread purchase (“iGen”) and a premise that _____: that today’s teens have been, in a fundamental and unprecedented way, deformed by technology. Using survey databases and interviews, Twenge documents a decline _____ well-being that coincides with the growth of smartphone use. The group she calls iGen had entered adolescence just as these technologies _____ hold.	out had
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Several years later, the New York University social psychologist Jonathan Haidt proposed another name for this cohort: “the Anxious Generation.” Haidt’s book of the same title was published early last year and has not left the <i>Times</i> best-seller list _____. Its author, meanwhile, emerged as a leading voice of alarm _____ picking up where Twenge left off. In “The Anxious Generation,” Haidt calls her work “groundbreaking,” but notes that, at the time she was writing, “nearly all evidence was correlational.” Armed now with ever larger data sets and some experimental findings, he argues that, between 2010 and 2015, a generational “rewiring” took _____, thanks to two forces. The first was a parental overemphasis on children’s safety. The second was the phones. This combination of “overprotection in the real world and underprotection in the virtual world” brought _____ a shift from “play-based” to “phone-based” childhood, he writes, with young people’s mental health _____ a casualty.	since by
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Part of Haidt’s appeal _____ terrified parents is his willingness to provide a stern and confident prescription: no smartphones before high school, no social media before sixteen, no phones _____ schools, and more independent childhood play. His guidance draws on the work of a former journalist named Lenore Skenazy. After winning media notoriety with a 2008 *New York Sun* column _____ letting her nine-year-old ride the subway alone, Skenazy reinvented _____ as an activist against helicopter parenting, and published a book _____ “Free-Range Kids.” Haidt read it when he was a parent of young children, and subsequently partnered with Skenazy to help found Let Grow, a nonprofit that advocates _____ increased childhood independence. He credits her _____ shaping his thinking, but he’s also repackaged her ideas in a way that’s enabled them to be taken seriously: where Skenazy offers advice with an air of rambunctious provocation (for a time, she hosted a reality show called “World’s Worst Mom”), Haidt projects sober objectivity.

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“Thank you for coming in. We’ll let you know _____ next week whether or not we like someone better than you.”

by

Even as “The Anxious Generation” has set the terms for teens-and-phones discourse, it has attracted critics, some of _____ seem primed to react against Haidt as a cancel-culture warrior. Others, though, have questioned his facts—_____ particular, the data underpinning his argument that phones offer the only reasonable explanation for a stark decline in teen mental health. Haidt points _____ a selection of statistics across Anglophone and Nordic countries to suggest that rising rates of teen unhappiness are an international trend requiring an international explanation. But it’s possible to choose other data points that complicate Haidt’s picture—among South Korean teens, for example, rates of depression fell between 2006 and 2018. _____, in the U.S., suicide rates have increased for virtually all age groups in the past two decades, not just for teens. Even in the areas in which Haidt’s case appears the strongest—for instance, concerning rising rates of

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depression among American teen-age girls—definite connections are elusive	
Richtel, entering this debate, stakes _____ a position between Haidt’s and those of his skeptics. _____ than questioning the existence of a teen mental-health crisis, Richtel seeks to contextualize it. Phones, in his view, aren’t a singular explanation, even if they are a legitimate concern. “I don’t think you need to be an evolutionary biologist or anthropologist to see the basic logic in this,” he writes. “SPENDING TEN HOURS A DAY _____ YOUR FACE BURIED IN A SCREEN IS NOT GOOD FOR THE DEVELOPING BRAIN.” In a chapter called “Social Media: This Is the Actual Science Behind the Boogeyman,” he explains his reluctance _____ make clear-cut statements on causality. “I’m guessing this can feel very unsatisfying,” he writes. “Like, <i>really frustrating</i> . Parents and policymakers want answers. I want to provide them. It would be really nice, _____ it true, to be able to say that the rise in mental health distress is a direct result of heavy use of social media. It’s just not that straightforward, though. The only thing _____ than no answer is a false one.”	out Rather
Like Twenge and Haidt before him, Richtel proposes a name for today’s teens: “Generation Rumination.” But he situates their turmoil in a consideration of adolescence as a cultural, sociological, and psychological stage that has emerged in recent centuries. The distress teens feel is, he believes, a reasonable response to a world _____ challenges are increasingly abstract and intellectual rather than physical. “Generation Rumination is growing up in the realm of the mind and psyche,” he writes. “Asking why some are struggling is like asking why some adolescents of yesteryear skinned their knees and broke their bones while trekking over a mountain to explore new terrain.” At the same time, adolescence _____ has changed as the age of puberty has fallen. Since the eighties, a growing body of research has found that girls in particular are starting puberty _____ younger than was once considered typical—as early as six or seven. Richtel argues that this means young people are now stranded for longer than _____ in a state of heightened vulnerability; he describes studies indicating that adolescent brains are particularly drawn to novelty and social information (in addition to the risk-taking and poor judgment _____ which they’ve traditionally been known), laying them especially open to the temptations of the phone. “Changing environment + changing puberty = neurological mismatch,” he writes. Richtel intersperses his research with the stories of several teens, who help illustrate the broad strokes of his theory. “I don’t want to blame the internet, but I do want to blame the internet,” one kid, who’s struggled with anxiety and depression, tells Richtel. “I feel like if I was born in 2000 BC in the Alps, I’d still be depressive, but I think it’s wildly exacerbated by the climate we live in.”	WITH To were worse
In addition to reporting _____ technology and health, Richtel writes thrillers—in 2007, the year the first iPhone appeared, he published one called “Hooked,” about Silicon Valley villains racing to develop ever more	whose itself much ever for on

addictive technologies. His sideline comes _____ in the prose of “How We Grow Up,” which is full of cliffhanger paragraph breaks and staccato fragments. It’s a book that seems acutely conscious _____ holding the reader’s attention, resorting at times _____ bullet points and chatty interjections. (While explaining “The Sorrows of Young Werther”: “Way to go, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe! You helped establish the idea of adolescence as one of terrible tumult.”) This is never truer than in a chapter addressing teens directly, titled “Hey, Adolescents, Own Your Own #*^& (or These People Will): An Open Letter to Adolescents Explains How You Can Take _____ Power from Heartless Money-Grubbers.” Richtel has reported extensively on the dangers of distracted driving, and perhaps it’s a credit to his prior work that he’s inclined to treat teens and their phones as part of the broader phenomenon of our tech-mediated lives—a phenomenon in which the teens themselves are active participants rather than pliant victims. “Adolescents do not _____ form their own identities,” he writes. “They help form ours. They are the future-makers, and they’ve been doing that for a long time.” It would be too dismissive to call the concern _____ teens and technology a moral panic, as some skeptics have done. But, if it isn’t a moral panic, it has at least become an irresistibly gripping cultural drama—a story operating on the level of emotion rather than data. Parents are daunted, exhausted, and afraid. A fear underlying the discourse of teens and phones is that technology might sever the parent-child bond, leaving the child _____ stranger. “The boy had changed, and was lost,” Haidt writes, summarizing one kid’s transformation from cheerful at age nine to screen-fixated at age fifteen. The terror of losing a child _____ online darkness is enough to power the recent Netflix series “Adolescence,” which, despite _____ title, is less about young people than about the distance their elders feel _____ them. It centers on a thirteen-year-old British boy named Jamie, who is accused _____ murdering a female classmate. Both kids are born around 2011, making them late members of Twenge’s iGen, or, as it has become better known, Gen Z. Jamie’s guilt is quickly established; the mystery is how and why he did what he did. To the police detectives _____ visit his school, teen behavior is a cipher to be decoded, almost literally: their breakthrough arrives when the lead detective’s young son takes pity _____ his dad and tells him what all the emojis in Jamie’s Instagram replies mean. (They’re manosphere arcana.) At one point, another detective laments that they haven’t spent more time learning about the victim. “We’ve followed Jamie’s brain around this entire case,” she says. Maybe so, but his inner life remains inaccessibly remote. Jamie has a big head, like a baby, and skinny limbs; his flashes of menace have the horror-movie quality of an evil doll. The audience’s most sustained encounter with the boy takes the shape of an hour-long meeting between him and a court psychologist. He is a patient, a specimen to _____ examined, and viewers, like the psychologist, are tugged _____ fear for him and fear of him.	through of to Back just over a to its from of who on be between
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<p>Fear is a note rarely absent ____ generational analysis of teens. “Always emphasize that you want to help them, that you’re on their side, and that the feedback you’re offering is to help them succeed,” Twenge counsels the managers of iGen employees, sounding a bit like she’s giving advice to novice zookeepers ____ entering a big-cat enclosure. Haidt’s book, meanwhile, begins with an extended analogy in which kids are pestering their parents to let them move to Mars, possibly never ____ return. The dominant strain of anxiety at present focusses less on the outright monstrous (as with nineties fantasies of teen-age “superpredators”) than on the brainwashed or body-snatched. “I’m a Liberal Professor, and My Liberal Students Terrify Me” read the headline of a widely circulated Vox article from 2015, ____ the period of campus culture wars that Haidt took on in “Coddling.” Technology is a vector; it transmits whatever ills and ideologies a parent imagines might lure a child ____ reach. Like the ongoing debate over kids and gender, the teens-and-phones discourse taps into a dread that your kid might stumble ____ new ideas, very likely online, and be irreversibly transformed.</p> <p>What do the teens themselves make of this literature: the books of social-science findings and parenting prescriptions, the headlines and journalistic concern? I was twelve when <i>Newsweek</i> published the cover story “Tweens: Are They Growing Up Too Fast? What Parents Can Do,” and I remember regarding ____ basic premise—that there was a meaningfully cohesive group of people between the ages of eight and fourteen—____ scorn. Eight-year-olds were children. Fourteen-year-olds were so old. ____ group had anything to do with me. But I also remember eying a copy of “Reviving Ophelia” on a family bookshelf with real curiosity. Mary Pipher’s 1994 best-seller instructed worried parents on “Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls” from a media-saturated, modern coming ____ age. On the jacket, a very young woman gazed out of shadows and into the light of a future I could not ____ perceive.</p> <p>“Don’t let the knuckleheads own you,” Richtel tells the teens. “Use social media and all the rest on your terms. Make that phone your tool, instead of being ____ tool.” It’s the voice of an overcaffeinated social-studies teacher straddling the back of a chair—that is ____ say, earnest enough to be unembarrassable and trying very hard to connect. I’m not sure it ____ work, but it’s nice to see the effort. ♦</p>	<p>from</p> <p>on</p> <p>to</p> <p>amid</p> <p>beyond</p> <p>onto</p> <p>Its</p> <p>with Neither</p> <p>of yet</p> <p>its to</p> <p>will</p>
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ESSAY TITLES

1.

Should noise-cancelling headphones be celebrated for focus or criticised for social disconnection?

Are noise-cancelling headphones enhancing concentration, or are they dangerously cutting us off from reality?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal blue or grey lines across its entire width, typical of notebook paper. The lines are uniform in thickness and spacing, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

2.

Can parents from the 80s and 90s teach effectively about drugs, or should schools take the lead?

Should drug education come from parents who grew up in the 80s and 90s, or is such advice outdated in today's world?

[illegible]

3.

Is the fight against climate change losing momentum, or are new strategies emerging?

Is the fight against climate change genuinely losing momentum, or is the media exaggerating the crisis of commitment?

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

4.

Should prenuptial agreements be normalised for everyone, or reserved for the wealthy?

Are prenuptial agreements empowering for ordinary couples, or are they undermining trust in marriage?

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

5.

Does trying TikTok as an “offline person” reveal its benefits, or just its addictions?

Does an 'offline person' joining TikTok expose the platform's creative opportunities, or only highlight its manipulative design?

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

6.

Are the Moomins still relevant as a source of comfort today, or are they simply a piece of cultural nostalgia?

Does “moomscrolling” through nostalgic childhood characters like the moomins bring comfort, or does it prevent us from engaging with the real world?

[illegible]

7.

What is happening to reading: is it evolving in the digital age, or declining in importance?

Is reading becoming irrelevant in the digital age, or is it simply taking on new forms that we fail to value?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal blue or grey lines across its entire width, typical of notebook paper. The lines are uniform in color and thickness, providing a guide for handwriting. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

8.

Is technology ruining teens' lives, or helping them build new forms of identity?

Is technology genuinely destroying teenagers' lives, or is it unfairly blamed for problems created by society?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal blue or grey lines across its entire width, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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(pridobljeno 18. 8. 2025)

VAJE IZ ZAPOLNJEVANJA VRZELI (GAP FILL) V ANGLEŠKEM JEZIKU

Strokovno gradivo za učitelje angleškega jezika v programu

Splošna gimnazija in Umetniška gimnazija

Avtorica

Urška Petrič Les

Založnik

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