

Digital Life 102

1. 82% of teens say that they own which of the following?

The correct answer is **a**, a cell phone. The vast majority of teenagers have their own cell phone (82%), including 41% who say they have a smartphone. Cell phone ownership varies by age – 74% of 13- to 14-year olds, compared with 87% of 15- to 17-year-olds.

2. What percent of teens describe themselves as “addicted” to their cell phones?

The correct answer is **c**, 41%. And 21% of wish that their parents would spend less time with their cell phones and other devices.

3. 68% of teens say they do which of the following at least once a day?

The correct answer is **a**, text. Two-thirds (68%) of teens text every day, half (51%) visit social networking sites daily, and 11% send or receive tweets at least once every day. Teens prefer texting due to the convenience – 30% saying it’s the quickest and 23% because it’s the easiest way to get in touch with one another.

4. What percent of teens agreed they wish they could “unplug” for a while?

The correct answer is **d**, 43%. Of this percentage, 13% agree strongly and 30% agree somewhat that they sometimes wish they could “unplug.” More than a third agree “somewhat” that they sometimes wish they could go back to a time when there was no Facebook.

5. 51% of teens visit social networking sites _____.

The correct answer is **a**: Just over half of teens visit social media sites at least once per day, and about one third of teens – 34% – visit social media sites several times a day. In fact, 90% of teens say they have used social media and 75% currently have a profile on a social networking site.

6. What percent of teens say that they don’t understand their social networking site’s privacy policies?

The correct answer is **a**, 24%. About a quarter of teen users admit they understand their social networking site’s policies either “not too well” or “not at all.”

7. True or false? More teens say they prefer texting with their friends than talking in person.

The correct answer is **FALSE**. When asked about their favorite ways to communicate with friends, about half of teens (49%) say they prefer in person communication. 38% believe face-to-face conversations to be more fun, and 29% say that they can better understand what people really mean in person. Fewer teens - (33%) - say texting is their favorite. Only 4% prefer talking on the phone as their favored way to communicate with friends.

8. What percent of teens say they have said something bad about someone online that they wouldn't have said in person?

The correct answer is **a, 25%**. A quarter of all teens admit to saying something bad about someone online that they wouldn't have in person. Similarly, 1 in 4 (24%) social media users say they "often" encounter one or more types of derogatory speech (sexist, homophobic, racist, or anti-religious).

9. What percent of teens say that social networking helps them connect with people who share a common interest?

The correct answer is **c, 57%**. A majority of teens say social media help them keep in touch with friends they can't see regularly (88%), get to know other students at their school better (69%), and connect with new people who share a common interest (57%).

10. True or false? More teens say that social media makes them feel better about themselves than worse.

The correct answer is **TRUE**. Most teens — 81% — actually say social media doesn't make much difference on way or the other in terms of how they feel about themselves. But some teens do see an effect, and more find that the effect is positive: 15% say social media makes them feel better about themselves, compared to only 4% who say that using social media makes them feel worse.

Note: All statistics and answer feedback (except for question #4) come from *Social Media, Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives*, the 2012 research report from Common Sense Media's Program for the Study of Children and Media. We surveyed more than 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds nationally to understand how they perceive social media (like Facebook and Twitter) affects their relationships and feelings about themselves.