

Read the following text:

I Can't Hear You, Mom

New research finds that teenage brains are wired to pay more attention to voices outside their home.

Is this familiar to you?

“Can you please put your dishes in the sink?”

“Please put your dishes in the sink.”

“I’m not sure you heard me. Can you put these dishes in the sink?”

“Are you even listening to me?”

You have probably heard these kinds of questions a million times. You have also probably wanted to just give the truthful answer and say “No,” right? It's hard to really blame you though because new research on adolescent brains suggests the reaction we have to certain voices naturally shifts with time, making our parent's voices feel less valuable.

A recent medical study, found that children under the age of 12, show selective brain activity when they hear their mother's voice. Yet sometime around a kid's 13th birthday, a change occurs. The mother's voice no longer generates the same reaction and instead, the teenager's brain appears to be more responsive to other voices. When teenagers appear to be rebelling by not listening to their parents, it is because they're wired to pay more attention to unfamiliar voices whether it is outside the home or even on social media.

As babies, we tune into our mothers' voices. When we become teenagers, we pay attention to other voices. We learn to tune out familiar voices when we are busy

doing or thinking about something else. As a teen, you don't know you're doing this. You're just being you: You've got your friends and you want to spend time with them. Your mind is increasingly sensitive and you are actively learning new things all the time. Research suggests that this "tuning out" is a signal in the brain that helps teenagers engage with the world and make connections which allow them to be social beings.

So the next time someone asks if you were listening, don't feel too guilty because "tuning out" is completely normal. It is a known fact that it's not only that you don't want to clean your room or finish your homework: Your brain isn't registering your parent's voice in the way it did when you were in elementary school.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

Mark TRUE or FALSE next to each statement according to the content of the text:

1. The study was conducted on the brains of teenagers.
2. People's reaction to some voices may change over time.
3. Young children are more responsive to strangers' voices than to their mothers' voices.
4. Teenagers react to voices they hear on social media.
5. Teens' brains ignore their parents' voices on purpose.
6. Tuning out helps teens to become social beings.

7. Teens should be ashamed of themselves for tuning out.

Vocabulary

What are the SYNONYMS of the following phrases?

1. answer

a. question

b. reply

2. blame

a. forgive

b. accuse

3. research

a. laboratory

b. study

4. valuable

a. important

b. acceptable

5. to occur

a. to create

b. to happen

6. to pay attention

a. to notice

b. to think

7. familiar

- a. known
- b. brother

8. teen

- a. boy
- b. adolescent

9. signal

- a. sign
- b. picture

10. clean

- a. tidy
- b. soap

Grammar

1. Fill in the missing verbs in the PRESENT PERFECT tense:

a. He _____ (to hear) me calling his name many times.

b. We _____ (to want) to answer you sooner.

c. Children under the age of 12, _____ (to show) selective brain activity.

d. A change _____ (not/to occur) recently.

e. The teenager's brain _____ (to appear) to be more responsive to other voices

f. You _____ (not/to be) actively learning new things all the time.

g. Teenagers _____ (to make) useful connections.

h. He _____ (not/to ask) me too many questions.

2. Fill in the missing verbs in the PAST SIMPLE tense:

a. You _____ (not/to hear) me the first time I _____ (to call) you.

b. Ben _____ (to want) to answer, but something _____ (to stop) him.

c. Children under the age of 12, _____ (not/to show) selective brain activity.

d. A change _____ (to occur) last year.

e. The teenager's brain _____ (to appear) to be more responsive to other voices.

f. They _____ (to be) wired to pay more attention to unfamiliar voices.

g. As babies, we _____ (to tune into) our mothers' voices.

h. When we _____ (to become) teenagers, we _____ (to pay attention) to other voices.