

Read the text by a New York-based writer and mother about the influence of technology on modern family life. First decide whether the statements (1-8) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the first 4 words of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you.



Kids addicted to technology

This summer a mom I know told me her 12-year-old bookworm daughter regretfully handed back her Kindle Fire, saying she couldn't handle the temptation to play games rather than read. Her mom was stunned. She assumed that all of those hours on the Kindle were being spent pouring over the school summer reading list. It turns out her daughter couldn't resist *Doodle Jumping* her days away.

I was impressed that a young girl could admit this growing addiction and hand over her Kindle, but she's the exception, and not the norm. Most parents are slowly recognizing that what starts out as an innocent distraction and fun way to integrate tech into our lives can easily turn into a full blown addiction to the games and gadgets that our kids now have access to all the time.

One of the reasons I chose my daughters' overnight camp this summer was because of their "no electronics" rule. No gadgets are allowed – and there's no electricity in the bunks. I admit, I needed them to be completely unplugged, and it's much easier to do that in a place where there are literally no plugs. At home, somehow, the one hour of allowed screen time easily morphs into two or three.

When a Taiwanese 18-year-old died in July after playing *Diablo 3* for 40 straight hours, the Internet was abuzz with tales of the dangers of prolonged gaming. But those cases of extreme use aren't what most modern parents are dealing with. Closer to home, my Facebook wall and real life chatter have been lighting up with tales of kids addicted to *Minecraft*, glued to their iPod Touches, and clocking in the hours watching YouTube videos or playing *Angry Birds* and *Temple Run* on iPads. One friend announced she was cutting off her son cold

turkey from *Minecraft* after he had a temper tantrum at 7:00am because she wouldn't let him play as soon as he woke up.

So what is a digital parent to do? We have pretty strict rules in our house – no screen time during the week at all, and the supposed one hour a day on the weekends. I had a fantasy that when my daughters returned from camp they would eschew the computer. And, they tried. But the lure was too great. They had virtual pets to check up on, stats to look at, and basically, their online world has become an extension of their normal world. Part of assimilating back into post-camp world was getting back into their tech groove too. Like most aspects of parenting, balance is key. Technology is an incredibly positive part of our lives, and our kids should be able to create and use it to their benefit. My twin daughters are 10 years old and they need to use a computer for school. By the time most kids reach middle school they will need to conduct research, write papers and, if their school is moving into the 21st century, they'll most likely have classroom blogs, assignments and school communication online as well. This is where it gets more difficult. Just as adults have a difficult time shutting off the email when they get home – kids will need rules to merge their “work” and home lives with technology.

There are all sorts of ways to set tech rules inside the house. In our family, it's no cell phones at the dinner table, or in bedrooms. Laptops are kept in the kitchen or living room. I do know first hand the hard part is having everyone follow the rules. The lure of technology in our lives is so strong; the goal has to be to figure out how to teach our kids to master technology and not let technology master them.

0	A game on an e-book reader kept a girl busy.
1	Children are realizing that they are over dependent on technological devices.
2	The author felt that her children needed a break from technology.
3	The author does not always insist her children follow the family's rules.
4	Nonstop computer gaming is a problem concerned parents face everyday.
5	Parents exchange information about which games their children are hooked on.
6	The author's children are not allowed to use any gadgets at home anymore.
7	Nowadays, children need technology for school work.
8	It's not easy for anybody to cut down on modern technology in their free time.

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	T	F	First four words
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1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Von der
Lehrperson
auszufüllen

richtig falsch

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