

3.2 *Living offline*

Aim: Develop reading skills such as understanding vocabulary in context and making inferences

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 3.2 for every S.

Comment: Use after or in place of the reading on page 25.

A Pair work

- Give each S a copy of the reading. Ask Ss how going offline for three months would affect their lives. Elicit one or two examples from the class.
- Ss work in pairs to discuss. Then have pairs share their answers with the class.

B

- Explain the task. Have Ss read the article to find the answers.
- Ss work individually to complete the activity.
- Go over the answers as a class.

Answers		
2	4	6

C Group work

- Explain the task.
- Ss work in small groups to do the activity.
- Have groups share their lists and suggestions with the class.

A Pair work How would going offline for three months affect your life? Why might someone want to do this? Discuss and share your ideas with the class.



Three Months “Disconnected”

One evening when Jake Reilly was sitting in his apartment with six of his closest friends, he noticed they weren't interacting with each other. Instead, they were interacting with their devices. They were texting, reading news online, streaming music, and otherwise engaged in a world none of them were physically in. This is when Jake realized he wanted something different. He wasn't sure what that was, but he thought he might find out by disconnecting and going offline. So that's what he did.

He turned off his cell phone, deactivated his social media accounts, and set his email to auto-reply. For three months, he lived without any emailing, online sharing, streaming videos, or cell phone calls. Instead, he wrote old-school letters, installed a landline phone (his mother insisted), and left sticky notes for friends in his school's elevator or wrote messages to them in chalk on the sidewalk. His friends let him know when they were free to hang out by leaving a stuffed animal or pumpkin in a window.

At first, living offline was a real challenge, but it wasn't long before Jake found himself enjoying the very different life he'd begun living. He felt happier and less stressed out. With more time on his hands, he started going for bike rides, reconnected with an old girlfriend, and discovered that some of the people he'd considered friends weren't really true friends at all. Jake says the experiment helped him see that his true friends were the ones who consistently stayed close or became closer.

As the three-month experiment drew to a close, Jake found he didn't want it to end. He didn't miss the constant stream of social media updates, and he enjoyed being free of the pressure he'd felt to reply almost instantly to incoming messages. Still, he's back online now – in a different way. Jake reports that the 90 days offline made him more aware of his surroundings, habits, and interactions. He's now less likely to check texts while talking with friends and more likely to live simply and in the moment.

B Read the article. Choose the things that happened to Jake because of the decision he made to go offline.

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| ☐ 1. Stopped seeing an old friend. | ☐ 4. Discovered new ways to have fun. |
| ☐ 2. Found new ways to stay in touch. | ☐ 5. Realized how important it is to be online. |
| ☐ 3. Experienced higher levels of stress. | ☐ 6. Realized how to be a true friend. |

C Group work Make a list of four things you normally do online, and suggest some ways you could do these things offline. Then share your ideas with the class.