



Vocabulary: generations and characteristics 词汇: 各代人的特点

'Kids these days, eh?' Three simple words that try to summarise many a misunderstanding across a **generational divide**. On one side, the older generation – **stuffy**, **antiquated**, and **oppressive**. On the other, the younger generation – **rebellious**, **ignorant** and **disobedient**, and lacking in self-control. Or at least that's what popular stereotypes would have us believe. That said, every generation is different in one way or another to the next. But if recent figures are anything to go by, **juveniles** may actually be improving upon their **elders'** behaviour.

British 16–24 year olds are drinking less alcohol and smoking less, according to a recent report from the UK Office for National Statistics. From 2005 to 2017 the number of British **adolescents** and **young adults** who had drunk alcohol the week prior to being interviewed declined from 60% to 50%. This is mirrored by their consumption of cigarettes, which dropped from 28.5% to 19.9% for the same period.

One possible reason for this youth's **sagacity** could lie in the **cultural shift** away from these behaviours – something they can thank their **forebears** for. Campaigns and adverts on the dangers of smoking and drinking have been **persevering**. For example, the Department of Transport's Think! campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of drink-driving, or the Department of Health's Change4Life campaign promoting the benefits of healthy food and exercise. And while, for their **predecessors**, these behaviours may have become **ingrained**, it seems young people are taking these messages to heart.

Another explanation could be based in youth's natural **delinquency**. "Young people are rebelling against the older generations' chosen methods of rebellion," says Dr James Nicholls, Director of Research and Policy Development at Alcohol Research UK, speaking to the Guardian. In other words, if the older generation's method of rebellion from their parents was to drink, smoke and act anti-socially, then their **offspring's** is to refrain.

Whether or not this will continue, only time will tell. As these under-25s go through life, they may **buck** their current **trend**, and turn to the behaviour of their ancestors. However, they may **stick to their guns** and continue to be sensible. If this is indeed the case then a more interesting question arises. How will their youth react?

词汇表

generational divide	代沟
stuffy	保守的，一本正经的
antiquated	过时的
oppressive	压抑的
rebellious	离经叛道的
ignorant	无知的
disobedient	不听话的
juvenile	青少年
elder	长辈
adolescent	(青春期的) 青少年
young adult	(二十岁前后的) 年轻人
sagacity	睿智
cultural shift	文化变迁
forebear	先辈
persevering	长久不懈的
predecessor	上一代人
ingrained	根深蒂固的
delinquency	(青少年) 违法行为
offspring	后代
buck a trend	逆势而上
stick to your guns	坚持己见

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How are older generations described by popular stereotypes?
2. How many 16-24 year olds admitted to drinking alcohol in 2017?
3. Why is it more difficult for older generations to change their behaviour towards drinking and smoking?
4. What does Dr Nicholls say is the reason for young people's behaviour today?
5. Which word in the text means 'to avoid or stop doing something'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I prefer to write them by hand and send them in the post. It's _____ but charming.

antiquated	delinquent	ignorant	stuffy
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2. This is a meeting! Pay attention and stop distracting people. Don't be so _____!

young adult	predecessor	offspring	juvenile
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3. While the great majority of people have integrated social media into their daily lives, a small minority continue to _____.

duck the trend trend	buck to trend	tuck the bend	buck the
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4. Many cultures attempt to teach their youth a reverential respect for their _____.

generational divide preprocessors	elders	forbearance
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5. There has been a _____ in perceptions of a woman's role - moving away from the traditional.

stuffiness	ignorance	cultural shift	delinquency
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How are older generations described by popular stereotypes?
Older generations are described as stuffy, antiquated, and oppressive.
2. How many 16-24 year olds admitted drinking alcohol in 2017?
50% of 16-24 year olds admitted drinking alcohol in 2017.
3. Why is it more difficult for older generations to change their behaviour towards drinking and smoking?
These behaviours may have become ingrained.
4. What does Dr Nicholls say is the reason for young people's behaviour today?
'Young people are rebelling against the older generations' chosen methods of rebellion.'
5. Which word in the text means 'to avoid or stop doing something'?
Refrain. If the older generation's method of rebellion from their parents was to drink, smoke and act anti-socially, then their offspring's is to refrain.

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I prefer to write them by hand and send them in the post. It's **antiquated** but charming.
2. This is a meeting! Pay attention and stop distracting people. Don't be so **juvenile**!
3. While the great majority of people have integrated social media into their daily lives, a small minority continue to **buck the trend**.
4. Many cultures attempt to teach their youth a reverential respect for their **elders**.
5. There has been a **cultural shift** in perceptions of a woman's role - moving away from the traditional.