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Teens & the Internet
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Young people today use the internet for tons of reasons. More than 21 million teens use the internet, and over half of them are online everyday. According to many studies, communication is the most popular activity now of all the things teens have access to online. Over the past years, social communication tools available to kids on the internet have allowed them to expand old relationships, and develop new ones as well. These tools include variations of Email such as Instant messenger, referred to as “IM”, a free internet service that allows you to communicate in real time with anyone who has the service and a screen name. Other tools include Web logs, known as “BLOGS”, shared online diaries where users can post personal information, journal entries, and pictures. Popular sites include Myspace.com, and LiveJournal.com. Teens use these tools to make new friends, communicate easily with current friends, meet people with similar interests and develop all sorts of relationships.

Young people use these social communication tools very differently from the ways in which adults do. It is much less common for adults to use online journals to meet new people and bare their emotions to the masses. They are much more likely to be found using these tools for more practical reasons. For instance, Instant Messenger is now found in many workplaces to make communication among workers easier, faster and all around more efficient. Email is still the way most adults choose to communicate with each other. Even though it may now be considered “old fashioned” for tech-savvy teens and young adults, it is simple to use.

Even when adults and teens use the same tools, they use them in completely different ways, for completely different reasons.