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Level 2

Children lack skill in holding pencils due to iPads

4th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-2.html>

New technology is reducing children's ability to use a pencil. Researchers from the UK's health service said that children spend so much time swiping iPads or mobile phone screens that they cannot hold a pencil properly. This means their hands do not have the muscle strength to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength...they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it because they don't have the...skills."

Technology is changing the way that children write, draw or make things. Children are now using technology to create. Dr Payne explained that: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes [so] they're not developing the...skills they need to grip and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology is causing bigger problems. One expert said if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said children needed to climb trees instead.

Sources: <https://www.treehugger.com/culture/kids-spend-so-much-time-ipads-they-cant-hold-pencil.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/feb/25/children-struggle-to-hold-pencils-due-to-too-much-tech-doctors-say>
Schwellnus et al <https://ajot.aota.org/article.aspx?articleid=1851631>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the UK's health | a. properly |
| 2. swiping | b. to hold it |
| 3. mobile phone | c. service |
| 4. their hands do not have the | d. the skills |
| 5. be able to write | e. iPads |
| 6. Children are not | f. muscle strength |
| 7. not able | g. screens |
| 8. they don't have | h. coming into school |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. changing the way that | a. need to grip |
| 2. draw or | b. weak |
| 3. encourage them to do | c. bigger problems |
| 4. the skills they | d. trees |
| 5. technology is causing | e. make things |
| 6. a child isn't strong enough | f. muscle building |
| 7. perhaps their whole body is | g. children write |
| 8. children needed to climb | h. to hold a pencil |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-2.html>

New technology is reducing children's (1) _____ a pencil. Researchers from the UK's (2) _____ that children spend so much time swiping iPads or (3) _____ that they cannot hold a pencil properly. This means their hands do not have (4) _____ to be able to write properly. Researcher Dr Sally Payne said: "Children are not coming into school with the hand strength...they had 10 years ago. Children coming into school (5) _____ a pencil but are (6) _____ able to hold it because they don't have the...skills."

Technology is (7) _____ that children write, draw or make things. Children are (8) _____ to create. Dr Payne explained that: "It's easier to give a child an iPad than encourage them to do muscle-building play (9) _____ blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes [so] they're not developing the...skills they (10) _____ and hold a pencil." Some experts say technology is causing bigger problems. (11) _____ if a child isn't strong enough to hold a pencil, perhaps their whole body is weak. She said children needed to (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-2.html>

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HOLDING A PENCIL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180404-pencils-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Holding a pencil in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

