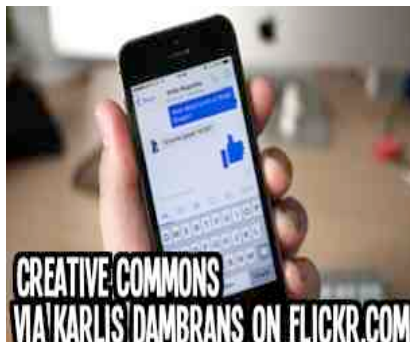


Tech giants woo 15-year-old whizzkid

26th January, 2015



Tech giants Facebook and Google are in competition to attract the talents of a 15-year-old app developer. Australian teenager Ben Pasternak sparked the interest of the

companies after he designed an app for a game called Impossible Rush. The app has been downloaded more than 500,000 times since its launch in October. The addictive game managed to climb higher than Vine and Twitter on the App Store charts. Pasternak has been invited by Facebook's internship department for a tour of the company's headquarters in California. He is also being wooed by Google, whose vice president has asked him to come to visit its campus. Both companies hope Ben could be one of their future developers.

Mr Pasternak is one of 450 high-school-aged entrepreneurs accepted on a Google and MIT sponsored event called Hack Generation Y. The high-schoolers have been invited from ten countries across the world. They will collaborate on a 36-hour project to create a sellable product. They will also listen to featured speakers from the technology and hacking world. Michael Matias, the organiser of the event, said: "Pasternak is a young entrepreneur and clearly ambitious. He has shown the world that age is just a number." He added that: "[Pasternak's] iPhone app was extremely impressive and if we were to guess, we would never imagine it was run by a 15-year-old."

Sources: *Sky.com / Tribune.com / ibTimes / Techaeris*

Writing

All children should start learning to code from elementary school. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

competition / apps / teenager / downloaded / addictive / tour / headquarters / wooed / entrepreneurs / collaborate / featured speakers / hacking / ambitious / impressive

True / False

- Google and Facebook are wooing a 15-year-old U.S. app developer. T / F
- The game designed by the teen is called the Possible Rush. T / F
- The app has been downloaded more than half a million times. T / F
- The vice-president of Google invited the teen to the Google campus. T / F
- Another 449 teens are attending a hacking event with the whizzkid. T / F
- High-schoolers from 36 countries are attending the event. T / F
- The high-schoolers will listen to speakers talking about hacking. T / F
- The app works only on Andoid phones and not iPhones. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. attract | a. apprenticeship |
| 2. sparked | b. function |
| 3. addictive | c. courted |
| 4. internship | d. lure |
| 5. wooed | e. cooperate |
| 6. entrepreneurs | f. arranger |
| 7. event | g. ignited |
| 8. collaborate | h. outstanding |
| 9. organiser | i. compulsive |
| 10. impressive | j. business people |

Discussion – Student A

- How important are apps to you?
- How important or useful is it to be able to code?
- How good is it that 15-year-olds can now make it in business?
- What do you think Ben's future will be like?
- What's your favourite app and why?
- What would you like to see if you visited Google's campus?
- Would it be better to work for Facebook or Google?
- How do you think Ben feels about being wooed by tech giants?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. in competition to attract the | a. of the companies |
| 2. Pasternak sparked the interest | b. speakers |
| 3. downloaded more than 500,000 times | c. for a tour |
| 4. invited by Facebook's internship department | d. wooed by Google |
| 5. He is also being | e. aged entrepreneurs |
| 6. Pasternak is one of 450 high-school- | f. run by a 15-year-old |
| 7. They will collaborate | g. talents of a 15-year-old |
| 8. listen to featured | h. a number |
| 9. age is just | i. since its launch |
| 10. we would never imagine it was | j. on a 36-hour project |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of hacking?
- What are the good things that hackers do?
- How do young people get so good at coding and making apps?
- How ambitious are you?
- If you became an entrepreneur, what field would you enter?
- What kind of 15-year-old were you?
- Are apps good or bad?
- What questions would you like to ask Ben Pasternak?

Spelling

- taatctr the talents of a 15-year-old
- rakedsp the interest of
- The edtiadvic game
- ipnisnthre department
- being ewodo by Google
- asked him to come to visit its pcumas
- high-school-aged ntsueeerpenrr
- a Google and MIT oeopndrsrs event
- otclralaeob on a 36-hour project
- listen to tdreufea speakers
- clearly bmsituiao
- xrlemyeet impressive

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. g | 3. i | 4. a | 5. c |
| 6. j | 7. b | 8. e | 9. f | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – App designer

You think an app designer is the best job in IT. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): social network creator, a hardware engineer or a website designer.

Role B – Social network creator

You think a social network creator is the best job in IT. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): app designer, a hardware engineer or a website designer.

Role C – Hardware engineer

You think a hardware engineer is the best job in IT. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): social network creator, app designer or a website designer.

Role D – Website designer

You think a website designer is the best job in IT. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): social network creator, a hardware engineer or app designer.

Speaking – Tech stuff

Rank these with your partner. Put the best tech things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| • apps | • blogs |
| • e-mail | • streaming |
| • texting | • video chat |
| • GPS | • online shopping |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.