Unit 3 — Digital Lives — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 10 · Niveau E

Niveau E

1. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Reading — *Digital, Honestly*

The phrase 'digital life' is increasingly redundant. For most readers under 30, the digital and the offline are no longer alternating modes; they are woven together. While this can be a problem for attention, it is rarely the catastrophe older commentators describe. Even though there are real harms — the steep, well-documented effects on sleep, for instance — the picture is more local and more specific than 'a generation ruined by phones'.

Grammar — complex sentences with subordinate clauses

Concession (admitting a partial counter-point):

- *Although the harms are real, the picture is more specific than the headlines suggest.*
- *Even though I agree with most of this, I object to the certainty.*

Contrast:

- *While this can be a problem for attention, it is rarely a catastrophe.*
- *Whereas older commentators see ruin, younger ones see overlap.*

Causal-given:

- *Given that we cannot un-build the internet, the honest question is what to do with it.*

2. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Choose: *although / while / given that / even though*: ___ digital life feels normal, the harms are real. ___ we cannot un-build the internet, the question is what to do.
2. Match: concession → although; contrast → whereas; given that → reasoning premise.

Niveau E — productive

3. Build 4 complex sentences using 4 different subordinators about a digital-life topic.

3. Your turn

Reflection, 200 words. Take a position on whether *'digital life'* is a redundant phrase. Use 4 subordinators (one of each: concession, contrast, addition, causal).

Sample

Although I agree with most of the article's argument, I object to the certainty of the word 'redundant'. While the digital and the offline are clearly woven together for most readers under 30, calling the distinction redundant assumes that the weave is even across people, which it isn't. Even though my schoolmates seem to live the integrated version, I know younger neighbours who still do most of their social life face-to-face. Given that the picture is uneven, the more useful question is not 'is it redundant?' but 'for whom and when?' Whereas older commentators tend to see ruin, the article tends to see seamlessness — both pictures are partial. The honest answer probably involves naming specific harms (sleep, attention) without inflating them, and naming specific benefits (reach, friendship across cities) without romanticising them.

4. Further reading / listening

- The Atlantic — *Technology* essays.
- Cal Newport, *Digital Minimalism* — accessible chapters.

5. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. Although (or While) / Given that.

2. all true.

Productive. 3. Open.