

Welcome to Today's Class!

Today's Topic: How Childhood has Changed in the Past 50 Years

Children's lives have changed enormously over the last 50 years. But do they have happier childhoods? Let's share our experiences and opinions.

Agenda:

1. Review reading passage and vocabulary
2. Breakout room discussions
3. Large group wrap-up





1975



2025

What are some key differences?

Reading Passage:

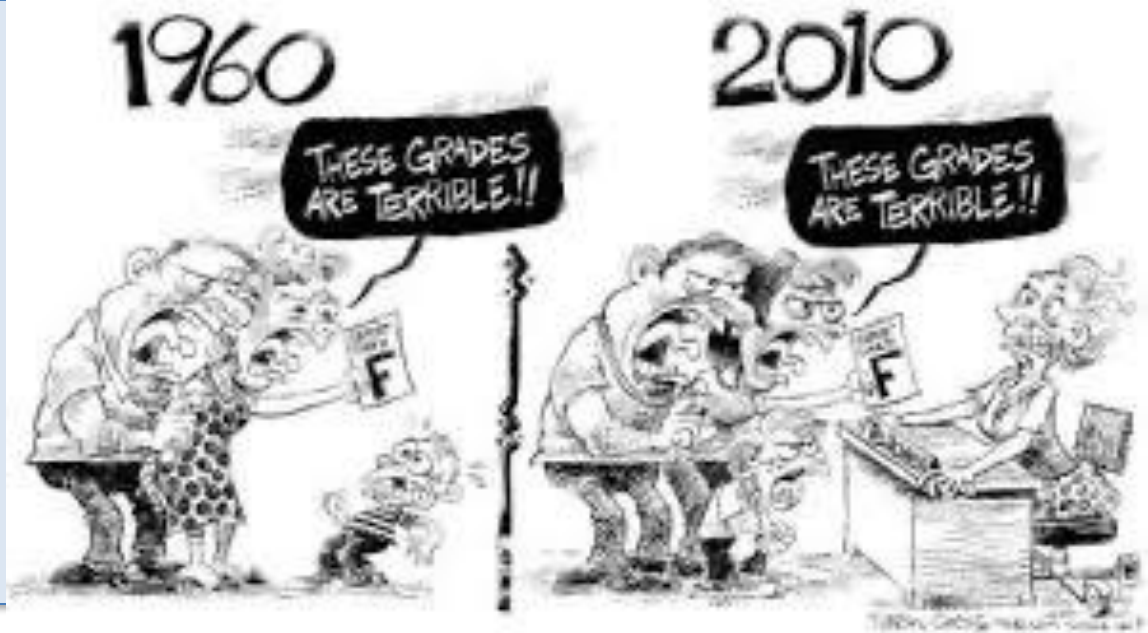
“Then and Now: The Evolution of Childhood”

Fifty years ago, childhood looked very different. Children played outside for hours without constant adult supervision. They built forts out of sticks, rode bikes until sunset, and invented their own games. Screen time wasn't an issue—because there were no smartphones, tablets, or video games. Most families owned one television, and programming was limited. Kids often entertained themselves using only their imaginations.

In contrast, today's children are growing up in a fast-paced, digital world. What are the main differences between children's lives 50 years ago and children's lives now?

Key Vocabulary

1. Supervision
2. Fast Paced
3. Coddling
4. Overprotective
5. Helicopter parents
6. Unstructured play
7. Playdates
8. Nuclear family



Let's Talk: Discussion Questions

1. What are some differences between children's lives 50 years ago and children's lives now?
2. In your opinion, has childhood become more similar or more different across cultures in recent decades?
3. How have family structures and parenting styles changed over the years?
4. Were children more independent in the past? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the world is safer or more dangerous for children now than it was 50 years ago?
6. What are some things from your own childhood that you think children today are missing out on?
7. In your opinion, do you think children today are better off than they were 50 years ago? Are they happier? Why or why not?
8. If you could give advice to today's parents or teachers, what would it be?