

# Emerging Technology

## Ted Talks – <http://www.ted.com>

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Hour 6

- ✓ You will watch the following Ted Talk and respond to the following focus questions.
- ✓ You can access the Talk at the URL address below.
- ✓ You may answer the questions on your own or with a partner.

### [Sherry Turkle: Connected, but alone?](http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together.html) 19:48

As we expect more from technology, do we expect less from each other? Sherry Turkle studies how our devices and online personas are redefining human connection and communication -- and asks us to think deeply about the new kinds of connection we want to have. TED2012, Filmed Feb 2012, Posted Apr 2012 [http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry\\_turkle\\_alone\\_together.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together.html)

1. According to the Talk, what are the places that technology is taking us to, that we don't want to go?  
Technology is taking us to a place where people are more isolated and less connected.
2. What are some examples of inappropriate use of technology that were mentioned in the Talk?  
In meetings, at funerals, while with each other
3. What does Ms. Turkle mean by being "Alone Together"?  
You're in the same room but do not pay attention to each other. The thing they want is control over where they put their attention.
4. What does she mean by "Hiding From Each Other"?  
Paying attention only to what interests someone.
5. How does "conversation → connection" happen according to the Talk?  
It doesn't work for connecting with each other. Compromises our
6. What concern is raised with kids who would rather "Text than Talk"?  
People don't know how to have a real conversation. They isolate themselves.
7. What impact does the feeling that "No one is listening" have on people?  
It makes people distance themselves from others because they think no one will listen. They isolate themselves even more and become even more lonely.
8. Why are people tempted by machines that offer companionship?  
Because they think that no real person will listen to them.
9. Why are people expecting more from Technology and less from each other?  
People are more dependent on technology because they know that technology doesn't have the choice not to be there. They might have had a few issues with people in the past and find it difficult to trust people again.
10. What is the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship?  
Companionship is always needed. Its having someone there to comfort you, not like friendship because they don't have to be a friend.
11. What are the 3 things mentioned in the Talk, that we all want, in order to be comfortable and in control?  
We can put our attention wherever we want it to be

We can always be heard

We will never have to be alone

12. Being alone feels like a problem that needs to be solved, the Talk mentions the concept of “I share therefore I am”. Explain what the following perceptions mean:
- I have a feeling → I want to make a call (*past*)  
You experience it yourself and you want to share it.
  - I want to have a feeling → I need to send a text (*current*)  
You have to share something with someone to have a feeling. Can't experience life alone.
13. How does “connection → isolation” happen according to the Talk?  
It seems you have to tell someone or else it doesn't count. You can't experience things alone anymore. Solitude is important. You have to be comfortable with yourself before anyone else can.
14. According to the Talk, “solitude is where you find yourself before you reach out to know someone else”. What do they/you see as the power of this statement?  
You have to know yourself and be comfortable with yourself before you can accept anyone else to be. You can never escape yourself so you have to learn to enjoy it.
15. How would you explain the following statement from the Talk, “If we don't teach our children to be alone, they will only know how to be lonely”.  
We have to teach others how to love themselves or else they will not be able to let anyone else love them.
16. How do we make our actual/real life, the life we love?  
It's time to talk. Start thinking of solitude as a good thing. Make room for solitude and create a safe place. Reserve time to think and reflect about things that are important. Learn to listen to each other.
17. Write three additional thoughts/reactions that you had to the Talk.  
She says a lot of words but doesn't really mean a lot. She can go on and on without making a point.

I enjoyed her conclusion. She ended the presentation with solutions to the problems she was discussing. She gave the audience practical advice in the end.

I liked how at the beginning of her presentation she talked about her daughter and made it more personal. Throughout her presentation she gave real life examples which made it easier to understand.