

### The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake

Today, let's talk about the Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake. These phrases refer to the current young generation. They are used to characterise young people of the 2010s, who, it appears, are more prone to taking offence than their peers.

Snowflakes are said to be less resilient than previous generations. They can be emotionally vulnerable to cope with views that challenge their own thinking. Snowflakes are said to be delicate and unique. They are furiously intolerant of those who dare to challenge them. To be fair, the term Generation Snowflake is a bit derogatory. It originated in the United States. Snowflake Generation is a slang term that made the Collins Dictionary 2016 edition.

Generation Snowflake regards losing Wi-Fi as a crisis. They can't live without it, or their mobile phone. They hate being offended on the internet. A broader outlook can perceive these young adults as Precious Snowflakes. This is young people who take offence to practically everything said.

Millennials Snowflakes last year wanted the removal of a Cecil Rhodes statue at Oxford University's Oriel College. It offends them in today's modern world. They need to grow up. You can't change history. You should study it rather than spending hours drooling and trolling on Facebook and Twitter.

The trouble with society today, in the west, especially, is that people get offended over absolutely anything. It's a sad world we live in today, when a young person gets offended by any minor matter. They take everything so personally. Yet, it is the older generation that created them in this way.

The Millennial Generation was born somewhere between 1982 and the early 2000's. They were brought up to rely on digital technology and mass media. They are the children of Baby Boomers.

#### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Who are Millennium Snowflakes or a Generation Snowflakes? Go round the room swapping details with others.

#### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

#### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

#### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

##### Student A questions

- 1) Name the dictionary.
- 2) What is a snowflake?
- 3) What is a Millennium Snowflake?
- 4) Who was Cecil Rhodes?
- 5) Who wanted to remove the Cecil Rhodes statue at Oxford University?

##### Student B questions

- 1) What can't Generation Snowflake live without?
- 2) What is Twitter?
- 3) What does *drooling* and *trolling* mean?
- 4) Who are Baby Boomers?
- 5) Who are emotionally vulnerable?

**Continued:** In response, young people don't like being called Generation Snowflake. They take it as an insult. Are they right?

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### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about 'snowflake'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three things about Millennium Snowflakes that were in the article. Write them below. Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Add three *other* things that you know about Millennium Snowflakes or Precious Snowflakes. Talk about them!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

*In pairs* - Student A is a Baby Boomer. Student B is a Millennium Snowflake. Start a conversation about the terms used. Do you like the terms or not? 3 mins.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) In relation to the article - are Snowflakes now becoming a Blizzard?
- 2) Are you a Millennium Snowflake?
- 3) Are young people today less resilient than previous generations?
- 4) Are people today easily offended?
- 5) Should people brush off being offended so easily?
- 6) How would people have reacted to people being so offended, say, 20-30 years ago? Would they have said 'get a life'?
- 7) Do you know any Precious Snowflakes?
- 8) Is Generation Snowflake right to be insulted by the term?
- 9) Why do young people today take everything so personally?
- 10) Do you know any whiny, entitled Snowflakes?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake.*

- 1) Someone who was born between 1990 and 1999.
- 2) Someone who was born after 1999.
- 3) Someone who was born in 1967-80
- 4) Someone who is a Baby Boomer (1946-65).

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* – Think of how Millennium Snowflakes act in the office. Is it so different to how their peers act? Have office standards fallen because of the Snowflakes? Give some examples.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 5-10 minutes* – As a class.

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*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Are Snowflakes anyone who is fighting for social change?
- 2) Were the students of Oxford University's Oriel College right to want the statue of their founder removed because they now don't agree with his views in today's world?
- 3) Are we more intolerant these days?
- 4) Is social media to blame for how young people are today?
- 5) How do the Baby Boomers react to these Millennium Snowflakes?
- 6) Why do Generation Snowflake spend so much time on their mobile phones, on the likes of Facebook?
- 7) Are Facebook and Twitter to blame for how young people are today?
- 8) Do you get offended easily? Why?
- 9) Are many of your friends easily offended?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake

Today, let's talk about the Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake. These phrases refer to the current young (1)\_\_. They are used to (2)\_\_ young people of the 2010s, who, it appears, are more prone to taking offence than their (3)\_\_.

Snowflakes are said to be less (4)\_\_ than previous generations. They can be emotionally (5)\_\_ to cope with views that challenge their own thinking. Snowflakes are said to be delicate and (6)\_\_. They are furiously intolerant of those who dare to challenge them. To be fair, the term Generation (7)\_\_ is a bit derogatory. It originated in the United States. Snowflake Generation is a slang term that made the Collins Dictionary 2016 (8)\_\_.

**edition / vulnerable / generation / resilient / peers / characterise / snowflake / unique**

Generation Snowflake regards losing Wi-Fi as a crisis. They can't live without it, or their mobile phone. They hate being offended on the internet. A broader outlook can (1)\_\_ these young adults as (2)\_\_ Snowflakes. This is young people who take offence to (3)\_\_ everything said.

Millennials Snowflakes last year wanted the removal of a Cecil Rhodes statue at Oxford University's Oriol College. It offends them in today's modern world. They need to grow up. You can't change history. You should study it rather than spending hours (4)\_\_ and (5)\_\_ on Facebook and Twitter.

The trouble with (6)\_\_ today, in the west, especially, is that people get offended over (7)\_\_ anything. It's a (8)\_\_ world we live in today, when a young person gets offended by any minor matter. They take everything so personally. Yet, it is the older generation that created them in this way.

**sad / society / practically / precious / drooling / absolutely / perceive / trolling**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake

Today, let's talk about the Millennium Snowflake (1)\_\_ Generation Snowflake. These phrases refer to the current young generation. They are used to characterise young people (2)\_\_ the 2010s, (3)\_\_, it appears, are more prone to taking offence (4)\_\_ their peers.

Snowflakes are said to be less resilient than previous generations. They can be emotionally vulnerable to cope with views that challenge (5)\_\_ own thinking. Snowflakes are said to be delicate and unique. They are furiously intolerant of those who dare to challenge them. To be fair, (6)\_\_ term Generation Snowflake is a bit derogatory. (7)\_\_ originated (8)\_\_ the United States. Snowflake Generation is a slang term that made the Collins Dictionary 2016 edition.

**who / in / or / it / of / the / than / their /**

Generation Snowflake regards losing Wi-Fi as a crisis. They can't live without it, or (1)\_\_ mobile phone. They hate being offended on the internet. A broader outlook can perceive (2)\_\_ young adults as Precious Snowflakes. This is young people who take offence to practically everything said.

Millennials Snowflakes last year wanted the removal of a Cecil Rhodes statue at Oxford University's Oriol College. It offends (3)\_\_ in today's modern world. They need to grow up. You can't change history. You (4)\_\_ study it rather (5)\_\_ spending hours drooling and trolling on Facebook and Twitter.

The trouble (6)\_\_ society today, in the west, especially, is that people get offended over absolutely anything. It's a sad world we live in today, when a young person gets offended by any minor matter. They take everything so personally. (7)\_\_, it is the older generation (8)\_\_ created them in this way.

**with / that / these / their / than / should / them / yet**



## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake

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Snowflakes are said to be \_\_\_\_\_ previous generations. They can be emotionally vulnerable to cope with views that \_\_\_\_\_ thinking. Snowflakes are said to be delicate and unique. They are furiously intolerant of those who dare to challenge them. To be fair, the term Generation Snowflake is a bit derogatory. It originated in the United States. Snowflake Generation is a slang term that made the \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 edition.

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Millennials Snowflakes last year wanted the removal of a \_\_\_\_\_ at Oxford University's Oriol College. It offends them in today's modern world. They need to grow up. You can't change history. You should study it rather than spending hours \_\_\_\_\_ on Facebook and Twitter.

The trouble with society today, in the west, especially, is that people get offended over absolutely anything. It's a sad world we live in today, when a young person gets offended \_\_\_\_\_. They take everything so personally. Yet, it is \_\_\_\_\_ that created them in this way.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs/As a class, list **20 different things Millennium Snowflakes like to do and not do**. Explain what they all do, etc. *Five minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) A snowflake \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) A Millennium Snowflake \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Young people \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: *The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake*.** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***The Millennium Snowflake or Generation Snowflake***.

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) snowflake
- 2) broader
- 3) derogatory
- 4) practically
- 5) millennium
- 6) generation
- 7) cope
- 8) challenge
- 9) perceive
- 10) edition

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**  
**Good = 15**  
**Very good = 18**  
**Excellent = 20**

- 11) statue
- 12) should
- 13) trouble
- 14) especially
- 15) personally
- 16) technology
- 17) insult
- 18) intolerant
- 19) phrases
- 20) characterise

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