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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 2

Amazon Alexa to reward kids who say 'Please'

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-2.html

Contents

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

Technology is helping children to be polite. Amazon has a new children's version of its virtual assistant Alexa. It is called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include a "Magic Word" feature. Actually, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The software is programmed to encourage children to say these two words when they ask the device questions. If a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital city of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes children will copy the device and be more polite.

The Magic Word feature is for people who think technology teaches children to be rude. Many smart devices say sentences without using any polite words. Parents say children copy this and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also ask smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood said: "AI devices [get in the way of] face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." It said parents should spend time with children and teach them politeness.

Sources: https://**slate.com**/technology/2018/04/amazon-announces-a-kid-friendly-alexa-freetime-and-echo-dot-kids-edition.html
https://www.**usatoday.com**/story/tech/columnist/baig/2018/04/25/amazon-echo-dot-kids-alexa-thanks-them-saying-please/547911002/
http://www.**bbc.com**/news/technology-43897516

PHRASE MATCHING

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	Technology is helping children	a.	friendly device
2.	a new children's	b.	programmed
3.	The child-	c.	version
4.	there are two	d.	so nicely
5.	the software is	e.	to be polite
6.	encourage	f.	questions
7.	ask the device	g.	magic words
8.	Thank you for asking	h.	children

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	Parents say children	a.	time with children
2.	Children also ask smart	b.	happy
3.	Not everyone is	c.	politeness
4.	devices get	d.	interactions
5.	face-to-face	e.	devices questions
6.	children need	f.	in the way
7.	parents should spend	g.	to grow
8.	teach them	h.	copy this

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

Technology is helping children (1) _____. Amazon has a new children's version (2) _____ assistant Alexa. It is called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include a "Magic Word" (3) _____ are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The software is programmed to encourage children (4) _____ two words when they ask the device questions. If a child asks FreeTime: "What is the (5) _____ Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes children will (6) _____ and be more polite.

The Magic Word (7) _____ people who think technology teaches children to be rude. Many smart devices say sentences without using (8) _____. Parents say children copy this and (9) _____ "please" or "thank you". Children also ask smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone (10) _____ this new technology. The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood said: "AI devices [get (11) _____ of] face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." It said parents should (12) _____ children and teach them politeness.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Technologyishelpingchildrentobepolite.Amazonhasanewchildren'sversionofitsvirtualassistantAlexa.Itiscalled"FreeTime".Thechild-friendlydevicewillincludea"MagicWord"feature.Actually,therearetwomagicwords:"Please,"and:"Thankyou."Thesoftwareisprogrammedtoencouragechildrentosaythesetwowordswhentheyaskthedevicequestions.IfachildasksFreeTime:"WhatisthecapitalcityofAustralia?"Alexawillanswerandenditsresponsewith:"Thankyouforaskingsonicely."Amazonhopeschildrenwillcopythedeviceandbemorepolite.TheMagicWordfeatureisforpeoplewhothinktechnologyteacheschildrentorude.Manysmartdevicessaysentenceswithoutusinganypolitewords.Parentssaychildrencopythisandforgettosay"please"or"thankyou".Childrenalsoasksmartdevicesquestionswithoutbeingpolite.Noteveryoneishappywiththisnewtechnology.TheCampaignforaCommercial-FreeChildhoodsaid:"AIdevices[getinthewayof]face-to-faceinteractionsandchild-drivenplaythatchildrenneedtogrow."Itsaidparentsshouldspendtimewithchildrenandteachthempoliteness.

SAYING PLEASE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about Saying please in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

Write about **saying please** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

_____

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