

# Technology In Our Lives

## High-Tech Devices Are Part Of Life For Teens

(NAPSA)—Today's teens are plugged into a wide range of high-tech products—and experts say that's a good thing.

Studies show that young people rely on consumer electronic products, such as computers, cell phones and MP3 players, that can make their lives easier.

According to new research released by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), teens say technology helps them keep in touch with friends and family. In fact, three-quarters of teens said they do not spend less time with people because of technology.

The research also shows that the average teen expects to spend around \$300 on consumer electronic (CE) devices in the next six months. Teens are well versed in a number of these products and spend approximately four hours per school day devoted to technology-related activities.

"Teens are comfortable with technology and value the improvements technology makes in their lives," said Steve Koenig, CEA's director of industry analysis.

When asked how they spend their day, nearly half of teens said that their activities were driven by technology. Four of their five top activities were technology driven, with listening to music as the most popular activity among teens.

Purchasing (58 percent), borrowing (56 percent) or receiving a CD (52 percent) as a gift are still the primary sources from which teens get music, with online stores (51 percent) being a fourth source. Purchasing music through online stores has increased 10 percent

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**Teens say technology helps them keep in touch with friends and family. Research shows that cell phones are their most popular device.**

since 2006, and teens are accessing music through online sources such as YouTube (47 percent).

A quarter of teens expect to purchase a new cell phone within the next six months, making it teens' most popular consumer electronics product. When asked to choose only one piece of technology to use for an entire day, teens chose cell phones most often.

Teens also use their phones for texting (70 percent) and over one-third of a teen's cell phone activities are spent accessing and creating content. Based on teens' current cell phone use and interest in more-advanced features, experts say more teens are likely to own smartphones.

Looking at what products teens want, an upgraded cell phone—or a smartphone—and an MP3 player were at the top of their list. Additionally, higher ticket items, such as computers/laptops, video gaming systems and digital cameras, would probably make popular gifts for the holiday season.

For tips on how to select a consumer electronics device, visit [www.DigitalTips.org](http://www.DigitalTips.org).