

Teens like voice search, adults not so keen

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More and more people are speaking to their computers or mobile devices to search for things online or on their hard drives.

Voice recognition technology, like Google's Voice Search or Apple's Siri, means our technology is beginning to understand what we are saying. The technology research company Northstar recently conducted Google's Mobile Voice Study and found that voice searches on mobile devices have more than doubled in the past year. Northstar said that voice search is a lot more popular among teenagers than adults. Researchers interviewed 1,400 Americans. They found that 55 per cent of teens use voice search more than once a day, compared with 41 per cent of adults.

Google's Vice President for Conversational Search explained how important voice search is becoming. He said: "Voice search is a key feature of the Google app that's becoming ever more important as people spend more time on their mobile phones." The research found that many teenagers thought voice search was a normal part of technology, whereas adults said it made them feel "tech savvy". Both teens and adults used voice search to multi-task while watching TV or cooking. Researchers said people used voice search for different purposes. One important use for teens was to study. Almost one-third of the 13-18-year-olds surveyed said they ask their phones for answers to their homework.

Sources: SearchEngineWatch / CNET.com / TechTimes.com

Writing

Voice recognition will transform our lives. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

computers / mobile devices / voice recognition / research / doubled / popular / teens / conversational / key / app / tech-savvy / multi-task / surveyed / answers / homework

True / False

- People speaking to their devices is becoming more common. T / F
- Voice recognition software does not allow technology to understand us. T / F
- A research survey carried out a survey based on Apple's Siri software. T / F
- Over 40% of U.S. adults questioned used voice search every day. T / F
- A Google executive said voice search helps find a lost key. T / F
- Teenagers think voice search is standard in today's technology. T / F
- Only teenagers used voice search while multi-tasking, not adults. T / F
- Teenagers used voice search to help them with their homework. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. devices | a. increased twofold |
| 2. conducted | b. essential |
| 3. doubled | c. reasons |
| 4. a lot | d. carried out |
| 5. at least | e. gadgets |
| 6. key | f. standard |
| 7. normal | g. interviewed |
| 8. savvy | h. no less than |
| 9. purposes | i. intelligent |
| 10. surveyed | j. considerably |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is online search for you?
- What would life be like without search engines?
- Do you speak to your computer?
- What could we get technology to do by using our voice?
- Why is voice search more popular with teenagers?
- Will speaking technology make us lonelier?
- Are there any bad things about voice search?
- What do you think of over half of U.S. teens using voice search every day?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. search for things online or | a. 13-18-year-olds |
| 2. voice recognition | b. with 41% of adults |
| 3. searches on mobile devices have | c. task |
| 4. a lot more popular | d. technology |
| 5. compared | e. different purposes |
| 6. a normal | f. among teenagers |
| 7. it made them feel | g. part of technology |
| 8. multi- | h. on their hard drives |
| 9. people used voice search for | i. "tech savvy" |
| 10. one-third of the | j. more than doubled |

Discussion – Student B

- How useful is it to use voice search instead of typing?
- Will we know more things if voice search was everywhere?
- How could stores, museums or airports use voice search?
- Would you like to have conversations with your technology?
- What topics would you like to talk to your phone about?
- How good are you at multi-tasking?
- How useful is voice search for getting homework answers?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- mobile icvedse
- Voice gontrcieoin technology
- euddocnct Google's Mobile Voice Study
- more than ldeubod
- Researchers neeitvewird 1,400 Americans
- omreadpc with 41 per cent of adults
- Vice President for oravnienlstaCo Search
- a key tfaeure
- it made them feel tech vyvas
- used voice search to tmlui-ksta
- people used voice search for different spupsreo.
- one-third of the 13-18-year-olds usdrevey

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. h
6. b	7. f	8. i	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Voice passwords

You think voice passwords would be the best technology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their technology. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): driving by voice, voice shopping or voice translation.

Role B – Driving by voice

You think driving by voice would be the best technology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their technology. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): voice passwords, voice shopping or voice translation.

Role C – Voice shopping

You think voice shopping would be the best technology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their technology. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): driving by voice, voice passwords or voice translation.

Role D – Voice translation

You think voice translation would be the best technology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their technology. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): driving by voice, voice shopping or voice passwords.

Speaking – Multi-tasking

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you'd like to do while voice searching at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| • shopping | • walking on the street |
| • watching TV | • eating |
| • homework | • exercising |
| • driving | • lying in bed |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.