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quiz

Do You Know Your Teen?

Are you up-to-date on your kid's life? Take this quiz and see. by Camille Noe Pagán

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You know your teen loves listening to Kelly Clarkson, won't touch broccoli and could stand to pull better grades at school. But when it comes to really knowing her, there's a whole lot more you need to have a handle on. "Being a good, effective parent means understanding all of her life, from who her friends are to how she wants you to approach her when she's upset," says psychotherapist Ellen deLara, Ph.D., M.S.W., and author of *And Words Can Hurt Forever: How to Protect Adolescents From Bullying, Harassment and Emotional Violence*. "Your kid may act like she doesn't want you to know anything about her, but that couldn't be further from the truth," says deLara. Teenagers want a good relationship with their parents but don't always know how to initiate one — which is why it's up to you to get the ball rolling.

Take this quiz to find out how much you know about your teen (or tween), and to discover the easy ways you can learn more.

1. You think teenagers should:

- a. Be seen and not heard.
- b. Be spoken to like adults, even if they don't have the same privileges and responsibilities.
- c. Not be given any responsibility until they prove themselves to be extremely reliable.
- d. Make their own decisions. They're old enough to say and do as they please.

2. True or false: You know most of your teen's friends' names, as well as where they live and what they look like.

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friend, Regina, is..."

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— Tlq, Lifetimetv.com
community member

- a. True.
- b. False.

3. Which of the following is *least* likely to happen over dinner at your house?

- a. You and your spouse talk to the kids about family stuff.
- b. You ask your teen about her day.
- c. You eat on the run and don't see your family.
- d. Your teen has her friends over.

4. If your daughter came to you crying about just failing a big test, you would:

- a. Not be totally surprised. You knew your child was struggling with the subject matter.
- b. Be shocked — your little genius always does well on tests.
- c. Start reviewing all of your teen's homework so this won't happen again.
- d. Get angry. She must have lied to you about studying.

5. True or false: Your child has approached you to talk about sex, drugs, smoking or body-image issues.

- a. True.
- b. False.

6. When you and your teen are fighting, and she is really upset, you:

- a. Refuse to speak to her until she can behave better.
- b. Let your teen vent — and then talk, after she has let it all out.
- c. End up yelling to get your kid to stop yelling at you.
- d. Fight, then act like nothing happened — you don't want to start another squabble.

7. Which of the following do you not know about?

- a. Your teen's favorite music group.
- b. The after-school activities your teen participates in.
- c. What your teen wants to be when she



gets older.

d. You know all of the above.

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