

2.7 Writing

An article

I can write an article that attracts and holds the reader's attention.

- 1 Look at the photos. Which aspects of adolescence do they illustrate?

- 2 In pairs, read the *Last week's competition* section on the website and discuss the questions.
 - 1 Why is adolescence described as 'a roller coaster ride'?
 - 2 What are the best things about being a young adult?
 - 3 What new challenges do you face as a young adult?
- 3 Read the winning article on the website and answer the questions.
 - 1 Did the author mention any of the pleasures or challenges you discussed in Exercise 2?
 - 2 What is the author's conclusion? Do you agree? Why?/Why not?

Psychology Magazine

Have your say Last week's competition

The journey from teenager to adult can bring joy and pain, success and failure, friendship and heartbreak. If you are riding the roller coaster of adolescence right now, then *Psychology Magazine* wants to hear from you.

Send us an article in which you describe some of the very best things about coming of age and discuss the most challenging aspects of life for people living through these 'in-between' years.

As usual, a selection of articles will be published in an upcoming edition of *Psychology Magazine*.

The winning article:

Adolescence: pain and pleasure in equal measure

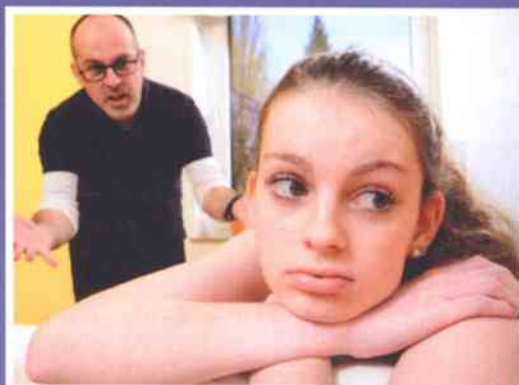
by Josh Payne

Remember when you were little and school summer holidays seemed to go on forever? Being children, most of us lived carefree and happy lives. Sadly, this does not last and we must all grow up. I can reliably report that the process brings pain and pleasure in equal measure.

First, there is the pain. Adolescence is a time of huge physical and emotional change. For many of us this change is accompanied by feelings of self-doubt, envy and embarrassment. Apparently, we are neither children nor adults; asked to act like 'grown-ups' in certain situations, but not in others. 'Be responsible and act your age ... but be home by 9 p.m.!' These mixed messages can be hard to deal with. Add to this the pressure of schoolwork and it is no wonder we sometimes feel unable to cope.

Thankfully, alongside the pain, there is also pleasure. Though we have to study, few of us need to worry about bills or housework. As a result, whether it is playing sport or online games, we have time to enjoy ourselves. On top of this, we have our friends. Pleasure and pain alike can be shared with those who know exactly how we feel.

Despite the challenges, as far as I am concerned, the pleasure of being a young adult outweighs the pain. Although it may not always seem so now, perhaps in the future we will look back on adolescence as 'the best days of our lives'.



This week's competition

There are many unfair gender-based stereotypes concerning the interests and attitudes of adolescents. Write an article of 200–250 words in which you describe some of these common stereotypes and challenge them by explaining why they are untrue or unfair. As usual, a selection of articles will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Psychology Magazine*.