

As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread across the globe, the number of coronavirus infections worldwide has hit 140 million and the number of deaths has surpassed 3 million. Undoubtedly, the pandemic has changed and affected people's daily lives.

Are students better supported in online lessons?

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Activity: Bracket the examples in paragraphs 2 & 3.

Since COVID-19 is breaking out all over the world, face-to-face classes are **suspended**, and schools have to make the switch to online learning. Some people think that students are better supported in the online mode than face-to-face lessons. However, I believe that online lessons may not necessarily bring benefits to students.

First off, online learning requires an extremely high level of self-discipline. There are many temptations at home to distract students. It is difficult for them to concentrate in online lessons. For instance, some students may play

mobile games or chat with their friends on social media, instead of paying attention in class. In this case, students are vulnerable to distractions. Teachers cannot supervise them and ensure they are listening intently. Only those who can exert self-control can do well in online lessons.

In addition, there are many technical problems with online lessons. Students rely on stable Internet connections to attend online lessons. However, some students do not have a fast and reliable Internet connection at home and lagging Wi-Fi can easily lead



Images: https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/illustrated-kids-online-lessons_7606716.htm

to disconnection. Besides, uncontrollable factors such as computer crashes and functional failures may occur. Students may

become anxious about not being able to join and maintain access to online lessons. If these problems occur frequently, learning efficiency will decrease.

All in all, students are not better supported in online lessons. In the online mode, students' success relies on their self-discipline to resist temptations. There are also concerns over technical issues that hinder student learning. Although the outbreak of the epidemic has forced students to study online, face-to-face learning is definitely more effective than online learning.

Why should we wear masks?



Images: <https://news.cnn.com/news/20-20-10/Study-Widespread-mask-wearing-could-prevent-further-COVID-19-wave-s.Rdz314d5a/index.html>

Activity: Write a word that best replaces the bold words in the brackets.

To curb the spread of COVID-19, it is recommended that everyone wears a mask in public. Masks have become a symbol of the **pandemic** () era and a key measure to suppress **transmission** () and save lives. But why is that so?

COVID-19 spreads mainly through respiratory droplets, which travel into the air when you cough, sneeze, and talk. These droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people around you. Masks act as a barrier to help **prevent** () a person's respiratory droplets from reaching others and protect people from breathing in the virus. This is why wearing a mask is used as part of a comprehensive preventive approach including **social distancing** (), cleaning hands, and avoiding crowded, closed and close-contact settings. Masks are used for the protection of healthy people and to prevent onward transmission.

Online learning revolution

To prevent a community-wide COVID-19 outbreak, the Education Bureau has suspended face-to-face classes a few times. After experiencing a trial run of remote learning, it seems that online learning is here to stay.

Over the past year, students have experienced and adapted to a new way of learning. Students now attend live-streamed classes via videoconferencing to keep up with learning progress. They are learning

to be more self-reliant as they need to study and jot down notes without the direct and close supervision of teachers. While teachers have resorted to technology to communicate and continue teaching remotely, students have become more resourceful with their use of online materials and tools. They can also develop a new set of virtual learning skills that may come in handy someday. The value of online learning is being recognized and it is not going away soon.

Activity:
Look at the bold words and answer the following questions.

What does 'they' in Paragraph 2 refer to?

What does 'it' in Paragraph 2 refer to?

What may come in handy someday?



Images: <https://www.hotcoursesabroad.com/study-abroad-info/latest-news/coronavirus-and-online-education-a-guide/>

How has COVID-19 impacted mental health?

During the pandemic, not only should we consider our physical health, but we should also pay attention to our mental health. Faced with lots of uncertainty, many are experiencing mental health problems stemming from the pandemic and are deeply distressed.

Recent studies in Hong Kong showed that 70% of respondents showed signs of depression. Those who have lost their families or friends have suffered from bereavement and many of those working in the food and beverage industry have lost their jobs because of the restriction order. Besides, people choose not to dine in to limit contact with others. As a result, quite a number of waiters and chefs have been fired or forced to take unpaid leave. It is reported that the unemployment rate in Hong Kong is currently at 6.6%, which is the highest in 16 years. All these uncertainties are triggering people's mental health conditions or exacerbating existing ones. It is paramount that we keep in mind the mental health of people around us in the face of such adversity.

Activity: Decide whether the following statements are True or False.

Statements

Over two-thirds of respondents showed signs of depression.

All people in the food and beverage industry have lost their jobs.

The unemployment rate in Hong Kong is the lowest in 16 years.

True False



Images: <https://powerbrainrx.com/rethinking-mental-illness/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-56763189>

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GLOSSARY

aspiring

hoping and trying to be successful at a job or activity

subscribe

arrange to receive something

rack up

to get or achieve a lot of something

thumbnail

a small picture of an image on computer screen

successful

having the correct desire result

dispenser

machine or container that you can get something from

afford

to be able to buy something

malnourished

weak and in bad health since having too little food

startle

to surprise a person or animal

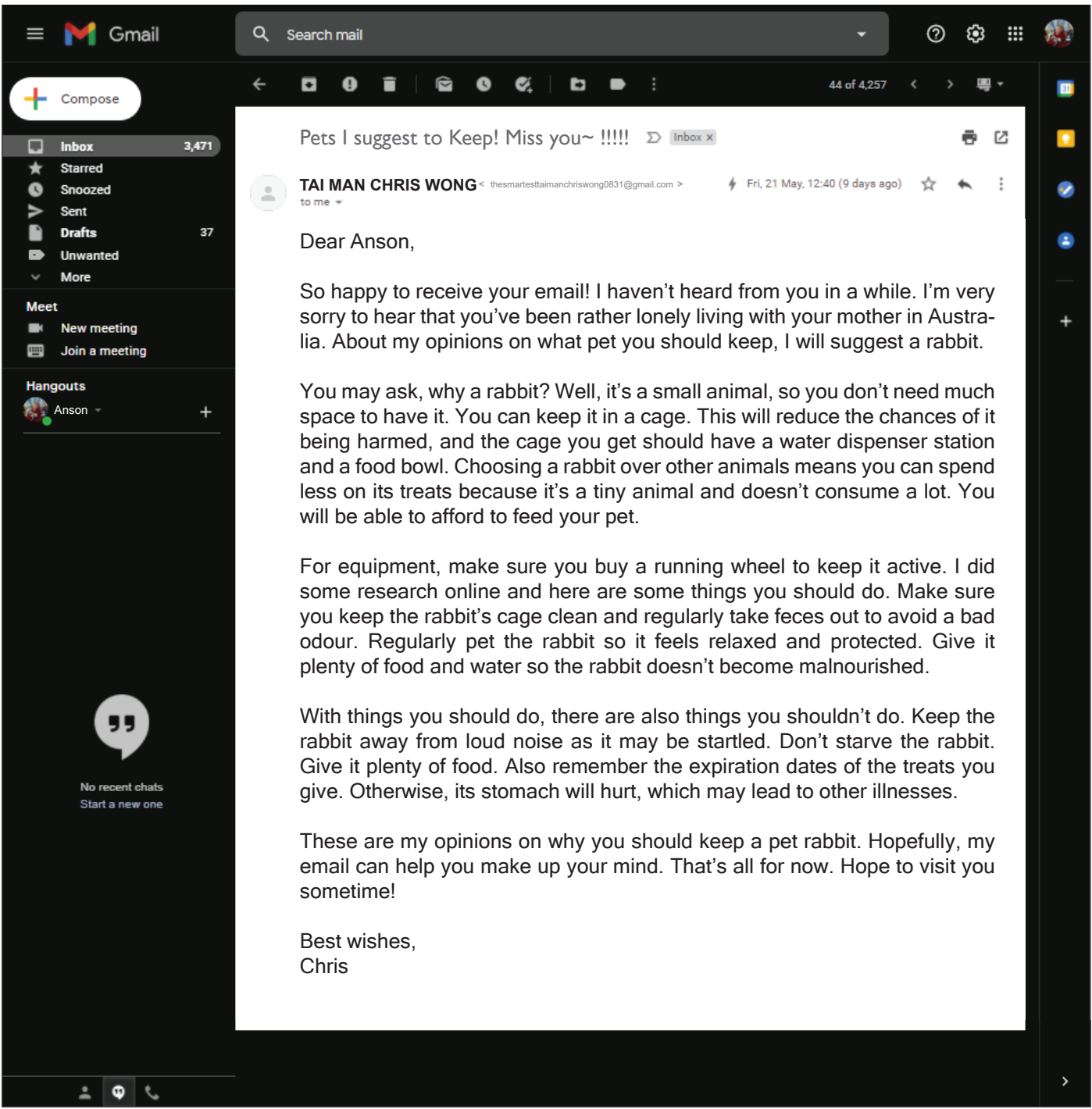
expiration date

the last day on which a product or service can be used

Email

Dinlasan Hugh Clive Dela Cruz 1B

Anson, one of your good friends in primary school, has sent you an email asking your opinion about keeping a pet. He lives in Australia with his mother now and feels a bit lonely. He knows that you are very happy with your pet. So he wants you to suggest a pet for him to keep. Write an email back to your friend.



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Speedruns

Mario Series

Formula 1

Rapping

Comedy

Harry Potter

Grand Theft Auto V

Israel Adesanya

Simulation Video Games

Casual Games

Cooking

Dray

The Rise of YouTubers

MATTHEW CHEUNG 4C

As technology advances, the standard meaning of a "job" is different every year. Back then, when people thought of what they would be doing in the future, they would probably think of a businessman or, for the more adventurous ones, an astronaut. But in recent years, teenagers might give you a different answer – a YouTuber. Why is this job gaining popularity these days? Who is qualified to be a successful YouTuber? Let's explore these questions one by one below.

Why being a YouTuber is more popular now

YouTube is a social media platform created back in 2005. This platform allows people to share videos with others around the world. At that time, no one would have ever thought about being a YouTuber as a serious career path. But in recent years, YouTube has bloomed into one of the most popular websites in the world. Millions or even billions of people post or watch videos on it every day, and people started to see the business potential of YouTube. As a YouTuber, you can earn a handsome sum of money if your videos have a lot of

views. The more views you have, the more money you will get. People could click a red button to subscribe to your channel. The more subscribers you have, the more famous you are, and you will get more and more views thanks to that fame. After people have figured out this cycle, more and more people are starting to consider YouTube as a full-time job and a legitimate way to make money. Some of the most successful YouTubers can rack up millions of views per video and have become more famous than traditional celebrities.

How to be a successful YouTuber

But what does it take to be a successful YouTuber? First, you need to figure out your target audience and the content you are going to put out. Once you have figured it all out, you need to learn how to attract viewers. You could edit a picture of yourself screaming and put it onto the thumbnail of your video or use an interesting title that viewers

Being a YouTuber allows you to share your passion and skills with people around the world. As a YouTuber, you can make money while doing the things you love – whether it is playing games or doing makeup tutorials. It is not surprising to see so many aspiring YouTubers everywhere, even in our school!

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