

WRITING SYNTHESIS: Lesson 25 - Internet Addiction

Digital Dependency, Social Perspectives, & Reported Speech Grammar

Objective: Analyze the causes and effects of internet addiction, opposing views, and reported speech conversions

Track: Secondary Level

1. Core Content: The Internet Addiction Debate

This lesson explores the psychological impacts of excessive internet use through diagnostic criteria and personal testimonies [cite: 1]:

A. Diagnosis & Risks

- **Symptoms:** Preoccupation with online activity, need for increasing usage time, failed attempts to stop, escaping from real-life problems, and lying to family members [cite: 1].
- **Diagnosis:** Answering "yes" to five out of seven criteria indicates an addiction problem [cite: 1].

B. Opposing Perspectives

- **In Favor of Heavy Use:** Sam argues that interactive surfing is healthier than passive television watching [cite: 1]. Janet argues that digital chatting is just as sociable and caring as traditional phone calls [cite: 1].
- **Against Heavy Use:** Ian notes that his wife's excessive computer use damages their marriage and causes defensiveness [cite: 1]. Manel explains how her addiction to chatting caused jealousy and ended her engagement [cite: 1].

2. Grammar Focus: Reported Speech

- **Mechanics:** When converting direct speech to reported speech in the past, verbs shift backward in tense (e.g., Present Simple becomes Past Simple) and pronouns adjust to fit the perspective of the speaker [cite: 1].
- **Example:** *I'm one of those who met her fiancé through cyberspace* becomes *She said that she was one of those who had met her fiancé through cyberspace* [cite: 1].