



Transcript

Internet **addiction** in South Korea's got so bad the government's banned teens from going online after midnight.

Web **junkies** have been going without food, drink and sleep for days because they're **hooked on** computer games.

The authorities have been **hedging their bets** by putting money into a variety of solutions.

One scheme monitors people's **brainwaves**, while another tries to get youngsters involved in more traditional forms of entertainment.

Vocabulary

addiction:

the medical and or psychological condition of being unable to stop doing something harmful. Generally we talk about addictions to substances like alcohol and drugs but in this story it's used to describe being obsessed with the internet and online gaming. The related verb is: to be addicted (to something)

junkies:

'a junkie' is an informal word for someone who is addicted to drugs. In this story it's also used to refer to people who are addicted to playing computer games.

hooked on:

an informal way of saying 'addicted to'

hedging their bets:

'to hedge your bets' is an expression which means to reduce your chances of making a mistake by investing in more than one possible option

brainwaves:

electrical signals produced in the brain

Watch this video online: South Korea's internet addicts

<http://bbc.in/oUshfm>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from a BBC news report. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

addiction / junkies / to be hooked on (something) / to hedge your bets / brainwaves

1

On my last visit to the city, Kandaharis spoke of their constant fear of attack, by either Taliban or US led forces. They _____, backing both sides until it was clear who would prevail.

2

Scientists believe they are a step closer to being able to read people's minds after decoding human _____.

3

The death of Amy Winehouse has once again highlighted the danger of drink and drug _____.

4

There were claims that the damage had been caused by a hard-core of violent protest _____ who had deliberately come for trouble.

5

He became _____ the tournament after watching Bjorn Borg play in 1977, and has returned every year since, seeing all the greats of the game.

Answers

1

On my last visit to the city, Kandaharis spoke of their constant fear of attack, by either Taliban or US led forces. They **hedged their bets**, backing both sides until it was clear who would prevail.

Source: Ahmad Wali Karzai: Meeting Kandahar's Mr Fix-it

<http://bbc.in/p5iklI>

2

Scientists believe they are a step closer to being able to read people's minds after decoding human **brainwaves**.

Source: Glasgow University researchers 'decode' brainwaves

<http://bbc.in/iPGfM0>

3

The death of Amy Winehouse has once again highlighted the danger of drink and drug **addiction**.

Source: Can a parent save their child from addiction?

<http://bbc.in/nXIPFo>

4

There were claims that the damage had been caused by a hard-core of violent protest **junkies** who had deliberately come for trouble.

Source: How the student fees protest turned violent

<http://bbc.in/cs7F0Q>

5

He became **hooked on** the tournament after watching Bjorn Borg play in 1977, and has returned every year since, seeing all the greats of the game.

Source: It's June, that means queues outside Wimbledon

<http://bbc.in/mhYuIK>