



# **THE COVID-19 SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF DIGITALISATION**

**Visual Reportage**

## Troubled Times

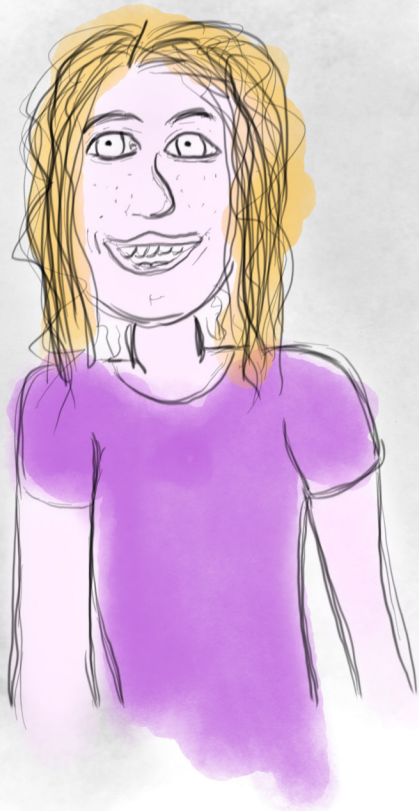
The Corona virus has turned the world upside down. An event that affects the entire world doesn't happen regularly. For months it's the number one topic of conversation and there is hardly any media coverage of other topics.

Everyone deals with the pandemic differently. On the one hand, this has to do with their own health, the resources available and on the other hand, with their personal attitude. One technological achievement makes it easier for many people to cope with the COVID-19 crisis. This benefit is often taken for granted - the digitalisation. The variety of possibilities in everyday life are illustrated by means of a normal day during the lockdown in Switzerland.



LEA

23 years old  
student

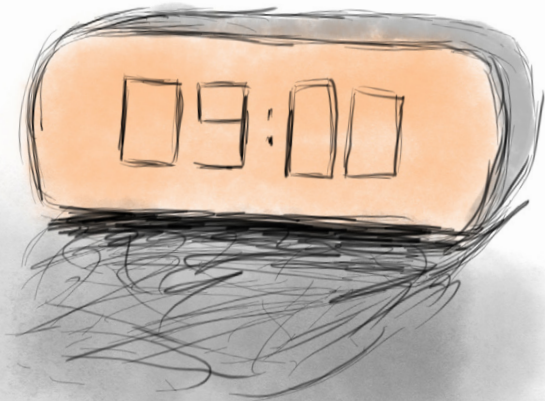


Switzerland  
Bern

### Student life during lockdown

Lea is 23 years old and studies Fine Arts at the Bern University of Applied Sciences. She lives together with her roommate Jan, in a shared flat in Bern. She shows her life during the thirs week at the Corona lockdown. Little has changed for her. School takes place normally, but from home and not on the premises of the University of Applied Sciences.

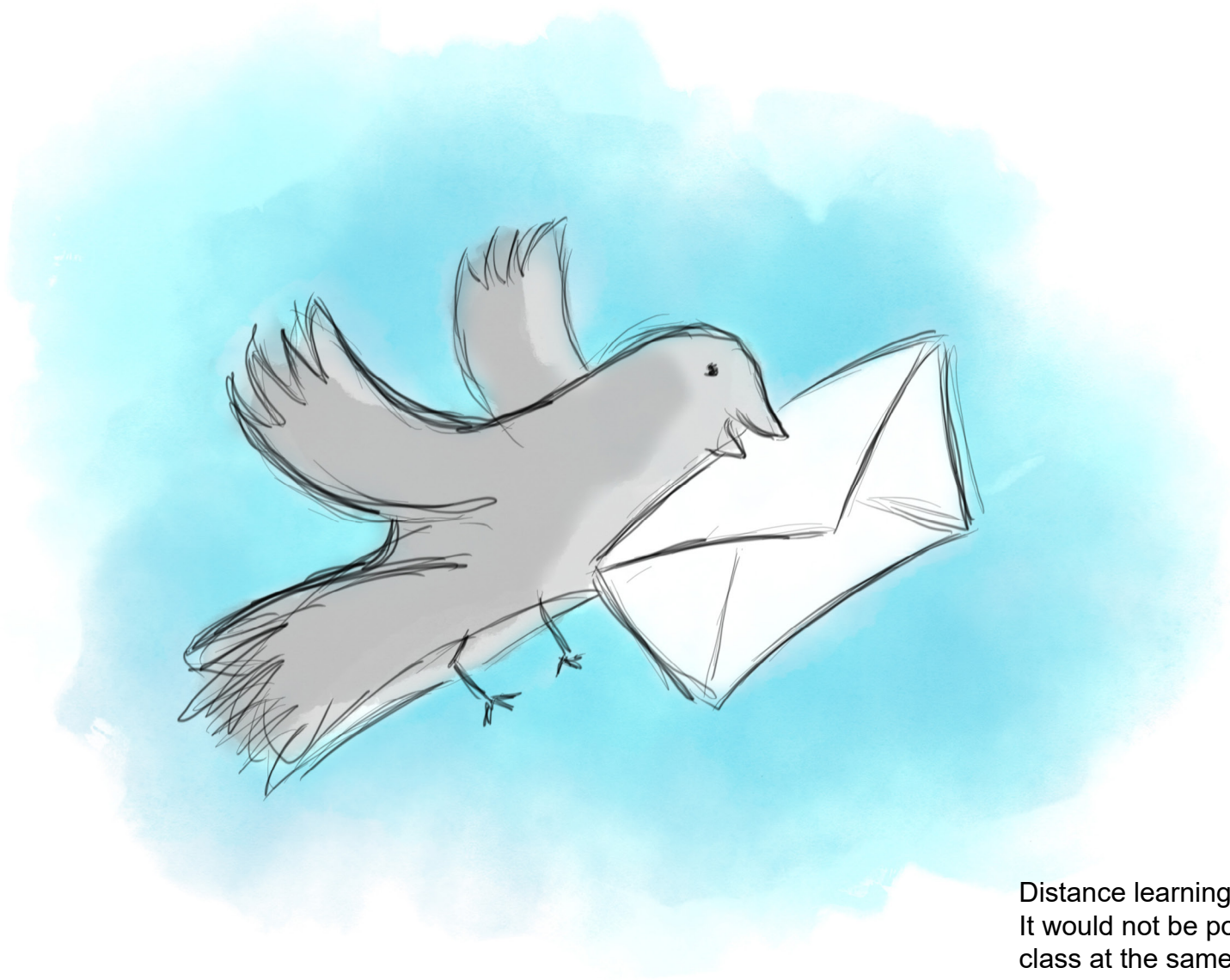
The corona situation has one advantage, at least for late risers like Lea. The online lessons start later than usual. It's still early enough to get up at 9am.





After getting up, there is no need to leave the bed for too long. Grab a cup of coffee and the online lesson can begin. School can easily be attended lying down, at least this is Lea's opinion. She has switched off her camera and microphone, so she can follow the lecture without hesitation.





Distance learning without Internet would be difficult. It would not be possible to communicate with the class at the same time, because there are about 30 students. Also the idea of sending the school material of almost one semester by mail is not handy. The poor letter carrier.

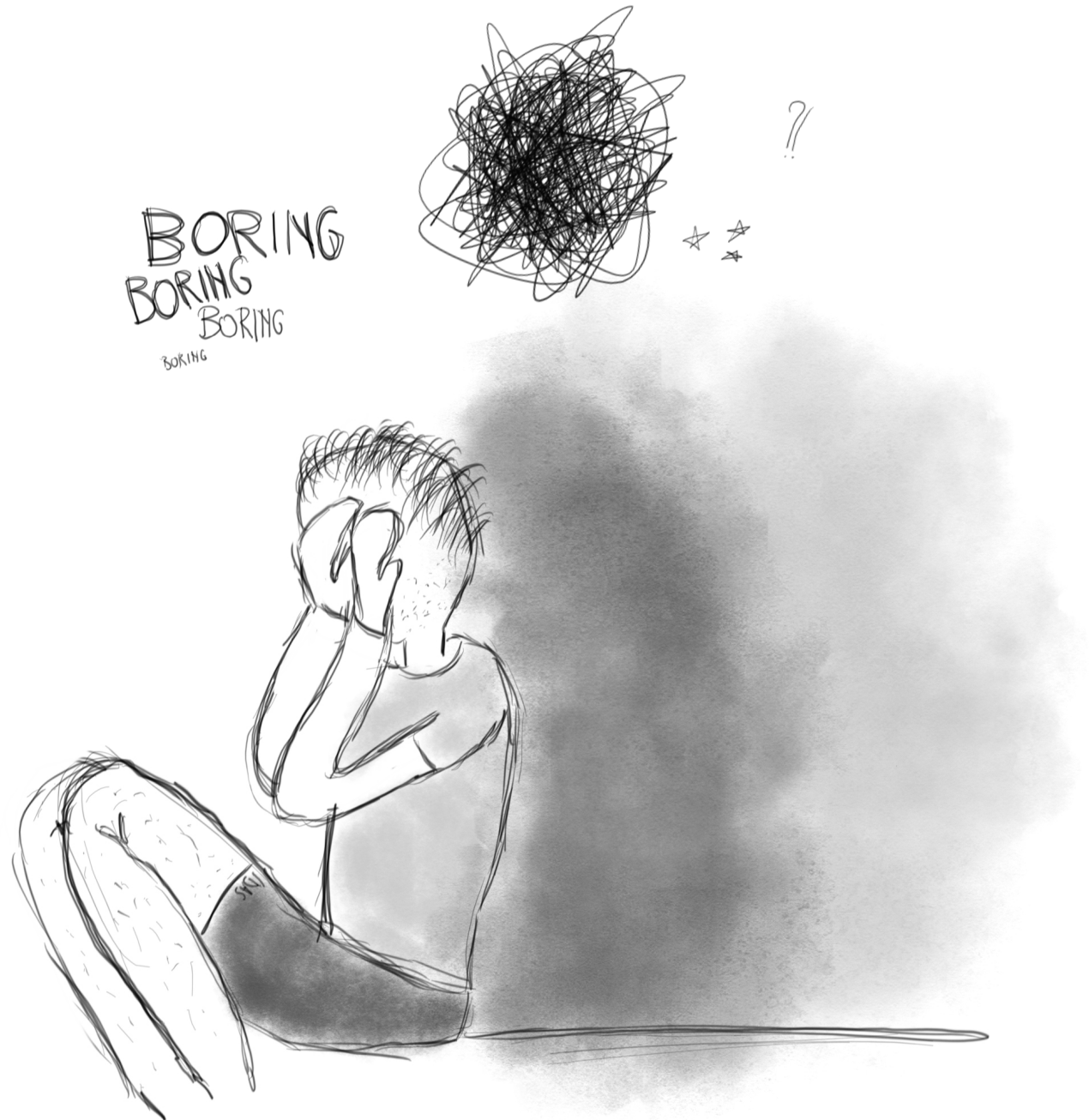
## The possibility to work at home

A loud exchange of words sounds from the next room. Jan has probably a business conference call again. Home office is an enriching opportunity. From home, Jan can do most of his work as usual. Only the less tech-savvy employees have trouble with the changeover. But my Jan is happy to support them.



The idea that he would have nothing to do for weeks without the possibility of the internet is bad. No pay, boredom and no motivation at all. Jan is a person who radiates a lot of joie de vivre and is usually always on the move. If such a person is deprived of tasks and a part of his freedom, difficulties regarding motivation can quickly arise.

In some cases it can even go so far that the person concerned becomes mentally ill. Particularly when the length of unemployment lasts for months or is even unknown.

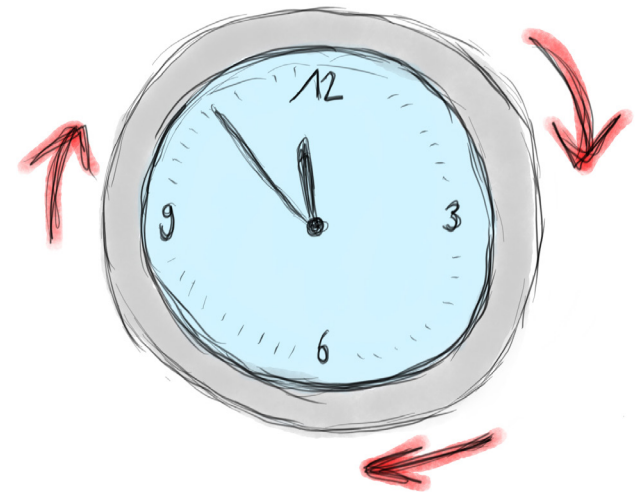






### Order food

Lea doesn't like to cook. She usually eats in the school canteen or buys her menu take-away. When the lockdown in Switzerland began on 17 March 2020, she worried about cooking. Most of the restaurants and take-away possibilities were closed. Also, she's not only disinterested in cooking, she's not able to do it at all. Fortunately, she can order from her favourite restaurant! That saves time as well.

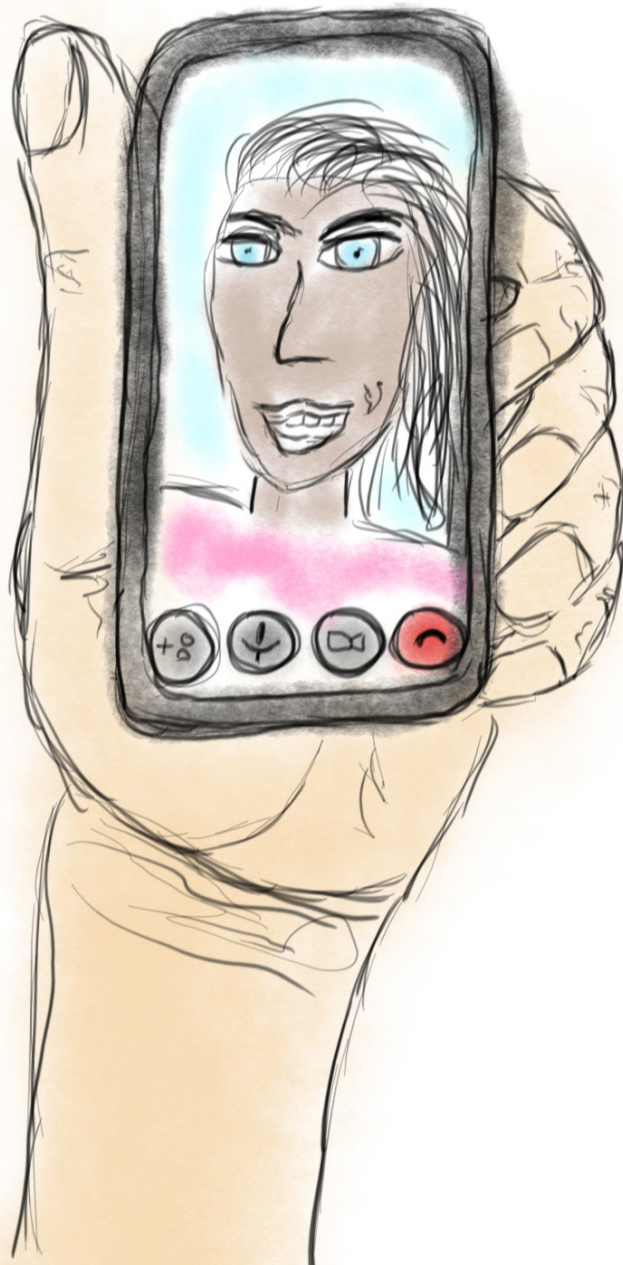




## Research

Today's computers can calculate vast amounts of data in a very short time. Medical information can be exchanged and processed synchronously on a global level. This is a huge advantage for research. When the most renowned researchers work together on pandemics, there is a good chance that rapid progress will be made. Be it for a vaccine or something similar. This fact isn't considered often or taken for granted.



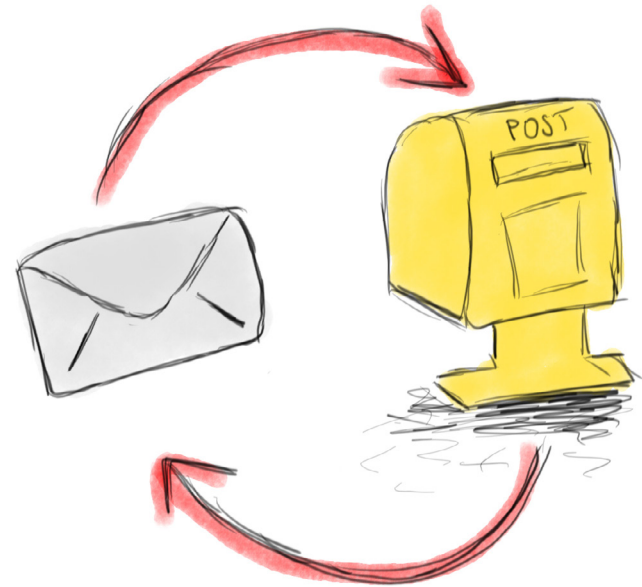


### **Video calls**

Online services such as Zoom or Skype are not only useful for schools. It also allows Lea to stay in touch with her best friend. The two of them can watch each other while talking. It does not replace real meetings. Nevertheless, it's possible to look into the eyes by the other person. Facial expressions and gestures are immediately visible. A further advantage is that you can also talk to people from the risk group.



The idea of having contact with family and friends only by phone or letter is not satisfying for Lea. The process of writing a letter, franking it and finally sending it takes a long time. And also the way to the next mailbox would not be recommended during the Corona time. Just hearing the voice of your loved ones makes a student feel more lonely. Apart from this, the fight about the one accessible phone at home with the roommate would be tedious.

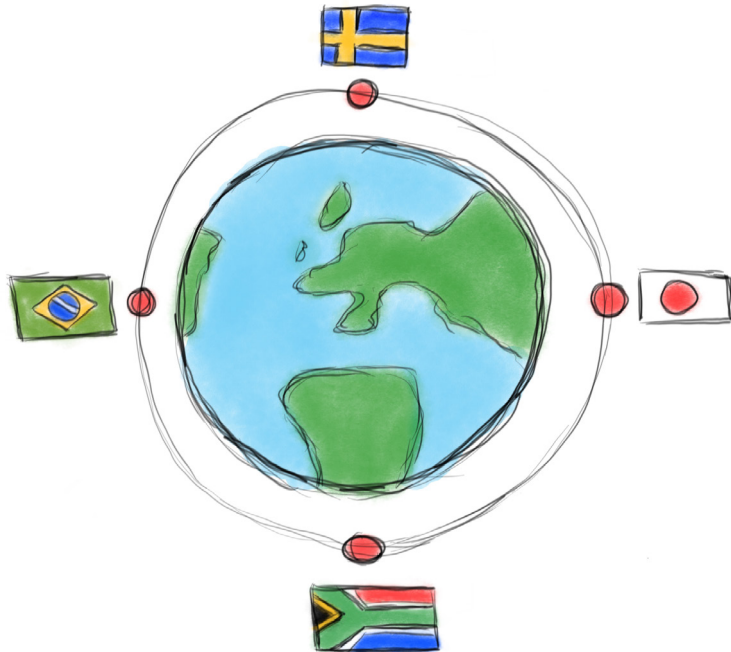




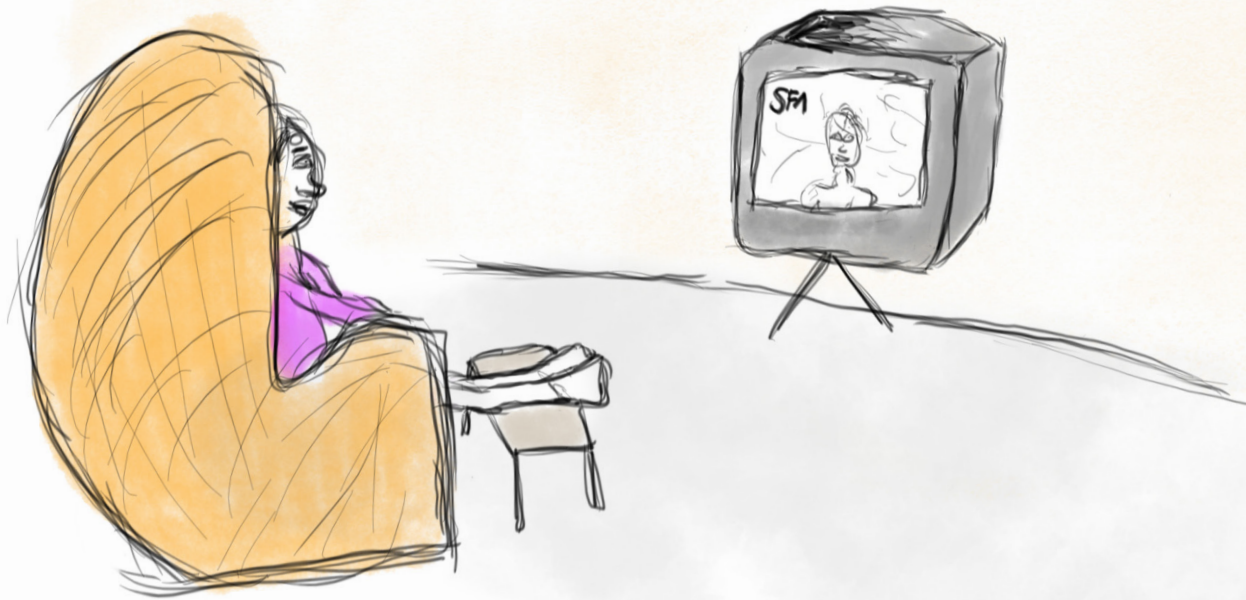
## Entertainment

People all over the world find themselves in a similar or equally exceptional situation. Comedians, musicians, cultural workers or influencers use these times. There are live streams of concerts, more content on all social media platforms, podcasts and cultural event formats which did not exist in this form before.

Lea was fascinated by the variety of digital entertainment possibilities. She felt connected to the world, even when she was sitting alone in her room at home.



Just being informed and entertained by the national TV program would have quickly become too boring for Lea. Because normally she doesn't watch TV anymore. She gets news and entertainment on the web.



### **At the end of the day**

The COVID 19 crisis must not be played down. The virus has caused a worldwide pandemic and thousands of people have been infected or passed away. In such difficult times it is important to recognise and at best, appreciate positive aspects.

Digitalisation has made its contribution to a better handling of the crisis. People were connected worldwide and were able to communicate with each other even during curfews.

A majority of the global population can continue their lives almost as usual. As can be seen from the example of Lea. These people can be grateful for their health and support other people who have tougher times. A positive attitude can also bring about good results in Corona times.

