MOBILE PHONES

"The cell phone has become the adult's transitional object, replacing the toddler's teddy bear for comfort and a sense of belonging."

Margaret Heffernan, American entrepreneur and writer

1. Mobile Phones Discussion

1. What brand of mobile phone / cell phone do you have? What's the best brand?
2. Are you happy with the mobile phone you have now? Why or why not?
3. What do you use your mobile / cell phone for?
4. What are your favourite functions? What new functions would you like to see?
5. Can you remember your first mobile / cell phone? How did it compare to the phone you have today?
6. How do you think mobile phones will be different in the future? What new functions will they perform?
7. How often do you use your mobile / cell? Do you think you use your mobile too much? Do other people?
8. What are the best and worst things about mobile / cell phones?

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2. Mobile Phones Vocabulary

- **(to) text** (verb, noun) – *to send someone a text (SMS) message; a text message.*
- **to call (somebody) back** (verb) – *to return a phone call.*
- **to hang up** (verb) – *to end a phone call.*
- **to break up** (verb) – *when a phone call is interrupted by a poor signal.*
- **to pocket dial** (verb) – *to accidentally dial someone while your phone is in your pocket.*
- **hands-free** (adjective) – *describes something that is designed to function without the use of hands.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. You should always use a **hands-free** device when you are driving.
2. If anyone calls me trying to sell me something, I **hang up** immediately.
3. The police called me to check if I was ok. Apparently, I **pocket dialled** 999 while I was walking home!
4. Sorry John, my boss just walked in; I'll **call you back** later.
5. I think I'm going to **break up**; the train's just about to go through a tunnel.
6. If I don't answer my phone, send me a **text** instead, and I'll call you back as soon as I can.

Mobile Phones vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Do you prefer to text or to call someone?
2. When have you said you'd call somebody back, but you never did?
3. Have you ever hung up on someone?
4. Where do your calls often break up?
5. Have you ever pocket dialled someone?
6. When do you use hands-free devices for your phone?

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3. Short Film: Why Smartphones Stopped Being Cool

You are going to watch a video by Bloomberg Quicktake called "Why Smartphones Stopped Being Cool."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-mobile-phones/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Smartphone manufacturers are trying to make phones more what?

   a) safe ***b) exciting*** *c) durable*

2. When did Apple release the iPhone?

   a) 2007 *b) 2008* *c) 2009*

3. What increased after the introduction of 4g?

   a) conspiracy theories *b) mind control* ***c) download speeds***

4. Since 2017, mobiles phones have become less what?

   a) advanced ***b) pioneering*** *c) durable*

Sentence completion

5. Many smartphone manufacturers are betting that the next big thing for phones will be the foldable **screen**.
6. Samsung's Galaxy Fold costs **$2,000**.
7. Unlike Samsung's Galaxy Fold, Huawei's screen is on the **outside**.
8. The rollout of 5g could be delayed by geopolitics and **security concerns**.

Short answer

9. In which country has Samsung released a 5g phone? **South Korea**
10. What type of transportation will rely on 5g networks? **Driverless cars**
11. What allows you to connect your fridge to the internet or remotely control the lights in your house? **The internet of things**
12. People need to start using their phones in new and different ways to justify what? **Spending more money**

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4. Mobile Phones Conversation Questions

1. How have mobile phones changed the world?
2. What was life like before everyone had a mobile phone? Was it better or worse than now? Why?
3. Do you think mobile phones have changed the way people build relationships and communicate with each other?
4. How would the world be different today if all of a sudden, all the mobile phones disappeared?
5. Should children be allowed to have a mobile phone? If so, at what age would be appropriate?
6. Could mobile phones be bad for our health in any way?
7. Could mobile phones pose a threat to our security in any way?
8. How would you cope if you lost your phone and had to go without it for a week or more?

5. Mobile Phones Writing Task

Write about your opinion of mobile phones. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- How mobile phones have affected your life.
- Whether mobile phones have made the world better or worse.
- How you think mobile phones will change in the future.

Alternative exam question

The smartphone revolutionised the world and made it a much better place. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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