

Mobile phones

Topic

Mobile phones

Aims

- To review vocabulary related to mobile phones
- To practise using text language
- To practise reading and writing skills
- To develop speaking skills

Age group

12- adult

Level

B1/ B2

Time

60 – 90 minutes

Materials

1. Mobile phones student worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/10004114> - The evolution of the mobile phone in pictures
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone - Brief history of the mobile phone
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101608691> - Article on mobile addiction
http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together?language=en - Popular TED talk on mobiles in the modern age (for higher levels)

Introduction

This lesson is about mobile phones and the issues that surround them. Students have the chance to learn some vocabulary related to phones and to do a quiz to test their knowledge of mobiles. Task 3 looks at text messaging and the language used for sending text messages. Students are given the chance to teach you about some of the text short-hand in their own language too.

Task 4 is a reading activity consisting of short texts which are individuals' views on mobile phones. Issues arise such as phone addiction, using phones in public places and in schools, keeping up with new technology, road safety and mobiles. These topics can easily be developed as discussion topics.

Higher levels can use Task 5 as a role-play of using a mobile phone in an emergency situation. Students are given the freedom to choose the situations and language can be fed-in as and when appropriate for the level and age group.

The Task 6 is to design a mobile phone of the future. Younger students may enjoy this imaginative task and it could be extended into a whole project.

Procedure

<p>1. Task 1 – Mobile phones (intro)</p>	<p>Write this question on the board or ask students, “In 1992 only one person in 237 used one. In 2015, 92% of British people uses one. What do you think it is?”</p> <p>Encourage students to discuss the answer before telling them. Answer: mobile phones. Go on to ask the class how many words they know connected to phones and making calls. Bring in a mobile if you have one or draw one on the board. To elicit the verbs use mime. Try to cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>touch screen</i> • <i>keys / buttons</i> • <i>to switch on/off</i> • <i>to dial</i> • <i>to hang up</i> • <i>to text</i> • <i>ring tone</i> • <i>charger</i> • <i>apps / applications</i> <p>Add any more you think appropriate for the level. If any of them are new, write them up on the board and give students time to work in pairs and mime to each other to familiarise themselves with the new words.</p> <p>Discuss the questions as a group. Depending on which country you are in, questions may need some adaptation.</p>
<p>2. Task 2 – Mobile phone quiz</p>	<p>Use this quiz with intermediate levels and above. If you think your students will need support with the vocabulary try to pre-teach some of the words before they start. You could include them in Task 1.</p>

As students do the quiz (in pairs or small groups) you can monitor and encourage debate amongst them as to which are the correct answers. (Most of the information is from a BBC website quiz summer 04)

Answers:

1) b (but 96% of all 15 – 24 year olds in UK own one)

2) a

3) c

4) b

5) c (China has about 750 million, India about 525 million and the USA has about 270 million mobile phone users)

6) b

7) c

8) a

9) b

10) b

3. Task 3 – Text messaging

This activity is appropriate in a society where mobiles and texting are common place. Extend the activity with any text language you use or have seen yourself.

Write on the board: '**C U L8R**' and ask students if they know what it means. Give clues until you get '**See you later**' written up on the board.

Then ask students to look at the chart below and see if they can write the text language in real English words. Add to the column of English text with any your students or you think of. The second two columns are for the students to think about their own language and to teach you a little of the text language of the country you are in.

Depending on the level this could lead into a discussion on how language is changing with SMS and e-mail and how flexible both languages are. You could even get them to send real texts to each other, using the language studied.

4. Task 4 – Phone in

Set the scene: A radio programme asked its listeners to phone in and give any comments on mobile phones. The texts are designed to be used as spring boards for discussion for higher level groups so you can talk about many of the issues surrounding mobile phones, such as safety, phone etiquette etc.

An extension is to ask your students to phone in to the programme and give their point of view. They could write these out for homework.

5. Task 5 – Emergency phone call

Ask students if they've ever had to use their mobiles in an emergency situation.

- Ask them to imagine situations where it may be really useful to have a mobile phone.

- Put their ideas on the board. Encourage your students to use their imaginations. (lost on a mountain walk, on a sinking ship etc. etc.)

**6. Task 6 –
Design the next
generation
mobile phone**

This activity can be used for all levels and could be extended to a mini-project for younger students. Students should work together to design the next generation mobile phone. They should be encouraged to be as imaginative as they can.

- To get them started, ask the questions to the group and see what they think. Bring in some photos of old and up-to-date mobiles if you can.
- As students are working in groups on the design, you can go around the groups and monitor. They may well need a lot of support with new vocabulary.
- When students have designed the phone and drawn it they could present their idea to the class. You could have a class vote to decide on the best design.

Contributed by

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