

Mobile Phones

Task 1 - Mobile phones

Ask your partner:

- Have you got a mobile phone? What make is it?
- Do you think mobile phones were a good invention? Why (not)?
- What are the features that you use the most on your mobile phone?
- Are there any places where you think mobile phones should be banned?

Task 2 – Mobile phone quiz

How much do you know about mobile phones? Try this quiz and find out!

Mobile phone Quiz

- 1) What is the average number of mobile phones owned by each British person?
 - a) 0.8
 - b) 1.8
 - c) 2.8
- 2) When was the first mobile phone created?
 - a) 1973
 - b) 1983
 - c) 1993
- 3) What were the first words spoken on a mobile?
 - a) "Can you hear me?"
 - b) "I'm on the train"
 - c) "Guess where I'm calling from?"
- 4) How many phone numbers could the first mobile phones hold in their memory?
 - a) 10
 - b) 30
 - c) 100

- 5) Which country has the most mobile phones in use?
- a) The USA
 - b) India
 - c) China
- 6) How many mobile phone subscriptions are there in the world?
- a) 3.5 billion
 - b) 6.8 billion
 - c) 7.2 billion
- 7) How many messages are sent by mobile phone per minute?
- a) 1.7 million
 - b) 3.6 million
 - c) 14.6 million
- 8) What is the universal emergency number for all mobile phones in the EU?
- a) 112
 - b) 999
 - c) 911
- 9) How many times a week does the average UK user pick up their mobile phone?
- a) 580
 - b) 1,500
 - c) 2,800
- 10) How much money do British people spend using their mobile phone for online shopping?
- a) £13 million
 - b) £45 million
 - c) £56 million

Task 3 – Text messaging

As text and instant messaging becomes more popular, language is changing. Complete the table of text language. Add more to the columns with the help of your classm8s and teacher!

English Text	English word	Text in your language	Word in your language
C	See		
U	You		
L8			
R			
4			
B4			
2			

- Now write a text message in English for your class to ‘translate’ into real English. Be as creative as you can with the language
- Do you think texting is encouraging young people to spell badly?
- How many texts/ instant messages do you send / receive each day?

Task 4 – Phone in

A radio station recently asked its listeners for their points of view about mobile phones. This is what some of them said. As you read the dialogues think about the following:

- Do you agree with anything the people say?
- Do you know anyone with similar views to these people?
- What would you reply to this person if you were the radio presenter?

Paula from Newcastle

“I couldn’t live without my mobile phone. I think I’m addicted to it in fact! I make over twenty calls a day and send at least forty text messages. I just like to be in touch with all my friends. It used to be more expensive to send texts but I’ve got a special deal with the phone company now so all texts are free and calls are cheaper too. Anyway – I wouldn’t give it up for all the money in the world!”

Maria from Cardiff

“I have a mobile but I try not to use it too much. When I do have to use it for a long time I worry about what’s happening to my brain. Sometimes my ear gets really hot and I get a headache – I’m sure it’s not good for you. We all use them but there hasn’t been much research into the dangers. Another thing that worries me is people driving while they’re talking on their mobiles. Surely that causes road accidents. I’ve even seen cyclists using mobiles – that’s just so dangerous!”

Mahesh from London

"I think they're really useful. It's great to be able to call or text a mate and tell you'll be a bit late to meet him. The other day my car broke down on the motorway and it was great to be able to phone for help. I got lost on the way to a friend's house the other day and I just looked up the directions on my maps app. That was really handy."

Simon from Plymouth

"I've never had a mobile phone. I work from home, I'm a writer, so I really don't need one. My girlfriend keeps trying to convince me to get one, but I won't. She's got an i-phone and raves about the fantastic apps and touch screen. She wants to get me one for my birthday, but I'd rather have a new laptop, actually. People think I'm a bit strange not having a mobile but I don't want people to be able to know where I am and what I'm doing every minute of the day. I like to be un-contactable!"

Anna from London

"I have a mobile but I'm really careful about switching it off when I'm in public places. I hate having to listen to other people's conversations on the train and on the bus. I try not to listen but it's impossible when people speak loudly. Often they have really personal conversations and I just don't want to know their private business. It can be embarrassing. I think they should be banned in restaurants, art galleries and on public transport. The whole mobile phone culture is out of control and we shouldn't accept it. It's noise pollution!"

Josh from Dublin

"I'm a teacher in a secondary school and mobile phones really annoy me. The students send messages to each other in the class and last month I caught some students cheating in a n exam by sending messages to each other. Some students even bully others via texts these days – that's really sad. In theory they are not allowed to bring them to school, but it's nearly impossible to stop them. I don't think parents should buy them for their children. It's crazy to see eleven year olds with their own mobiles. It must cost a fortune for their parents too."

Clare from Bristol

"I used to love my mobile phone – it had a great camera and some cool photo apps and I would upload loads of pictures of what I was doing to the internet. But it got really out of hand – and I started to get really annoyed when I was out with friends and everyone was spending more time looking at their mobile phones than actually talking to each other. It just seemed ridiculous! So now, I have changed my smart phone for a really basic mobile phone, just to make calls and send a few messages. I feel much better now that I am not so addicted to being on my mobile, and actually have real conversations with my friends."

- Now imagine that you are going to phone in to the radio programme. What would you say? Write your comment below and then share it with your classmates:

Task 5 – Emergency phone call

Most people would agree that mobile phones are useful in emergency situations. What situations can you think of where a mobile phone would be really helpful? Write three ideas below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now you are going to imagine you are in one of these situations. Luckily you do have a mobile phone with you.

- Who would you call?
- What would you say?
- Work with a partner and write a dialogue. One of you is in the emergency situation and the other is the person you call.

Task 6 Design the next generation mobile phone

- How have mobile phones changed since the 80s?
- What do you think mobile phones will be like in 20 or 100 years time?
- What will you be able to do with your phone?
- How big will it be and what will it look like?

Imagine you work for a mobile phone company.

- Work in a group to design a mobile phone of the future.
- Think about the features it has and what it can do.
- When you have decided, try to draw the phone and label all the features.
- Then you can present your idea to the group.