

The Cell Phone Age

1 Before you read Work with a partner.

- Do you have a cellular phone?
- Why do/don't you have one?

2 Vocabulary #1 Match the word with the correct meaning.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| indispensable | large inconvenient size |
| the preserve of | be as good as |
| bulky | not noticing |
| rival | suitable only for |
| bemoan | very important |
| oblivious | complain about |



3 Reading Quickly read the following text:



For many people today, it's difficult to imagine life without a cellular phone. Once the preserve of the rich, they have now become an indispensable part of modern day life.

The technology for cellular phones was patented in 1975, but it wasn't until 1982 that the first commercial cell phone network was established in the United States. Since that time, the cellular phone has changed from a bulky machine, to something that can fit into the palm of your hand.

The functions available in modern-day cell phones are increasing rapidly. E-mail access is now standard. Cellular phone cameras, which were once little more than a gimmick, now rival stand-alone digital cameras in terms of quality. With 'Third Generation' telephones, broadband access offers the possibility of video phones, television and full Internet access.

All this comes at a cost, however. Many people bemoan a society where people seem glued to their phone, but oblivious to all that is going on around them.

4 Summarizing Write one sentence for each paragraph. Compare your answers with other students.

1)
2)
3)
4)

5 Vocabulary #2 Change these sentences using the vocabulary from exercise two.

1. Many people complain about the manners of today's youth.
2. Computers have changed a lot in recent years. Desktops used to be very big.
3. Many free software packages are as good as commercial ones.
4. Sumo wrestling used to be only for Japanese. Now many nationalities take part.
5. Microwave ovens are nowadays very important for cooking.

6 Discussion Ask your partner(s) these questions. Ask follow-up questions!**Questions related to the text**

- Do you agree with the writer that cell phones have become '*an indispensable part of modern day life*'?
- The text talks about the social cost of people using cell phones. Do you think it's a major problem?

Questions for cellular phone users

- Why did you choose your particular cell phone? Does it have any functions that you never use?
- How do you think cellular phones will change in the coming years?
- Do you think you have good 'cell phone manners'? Can you give any examples?
- In what places is cell phone usage banned? Do you agree with this?

Questions for non-cellular phone users

- Would you like to buy a cellular phone in the future?
- Do you ever get annoyed by cellular phone users?
- From what age do you think it's acceptable for people to have cell phones?

Questions for everyone

- Would you like to buy a cellular phone in the future?
- Do you ever get annoyed by cellular phone users?

Your questions

-
-
-

The Cell Phone Age: Teacher's Notes

Target Structure:	Theme Lesson: Reading and Discussion
Vocabulary:	Telephones, Communications etc. (US English)
Level:	Advanced
Time:	1 hour, depending on discussion
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet covers vocabulary, reading and discussion practice. Everyone seems to have opinions on cell phones, and this worksheet will help your students express them.

- 1 Give one worksheet to each student. Follow the instructions for exercise one. This should be quite brief: the main discussion questions are at the end.
- 2 Some of this vocabulary is quite tough. You could help by introducing a scanning exercise. Tell students to look for the words in the text and underline them *before* doing the vocabulary section. If necessary, explain the concept of scanning compared to detailed reading. A good example is a bus timetable – you look for a specific time, rather than read the timetable from top to bottom.
- 3 Before reading the text, you should set a reading task / gist question. We suggest asking students to make a list of the positive and negative points of having a cell phone, which are mentioned in the text. Set a short time-limit for the reading. If students don't understand a word, they should move on, and not get stuck.

Go through the answer to the reading question.

- 4 Put students into new pairs. Students should summarize each paragraph using one sentence. Encourage natural English. The text is quite formal in style – it might be good for the students to make it more casual.
When the students have finished, let them compare with other students. Finally, go through some of the answers with the class.
- 5 This is an opportunity to revise the new vocabulary. Students should work alone, and check in pairs. Some sentences will need the grammar adjusted to fit the changed vocabulary.
- 6 Leave plenty of time for class discussion. To maximize student talking time, it's best to put students in pairs, or small groups. Students should read all the questions first, before beginning the discussion.

Encourage eye contact and follow up questions. Some discussion phrases might also come in useful. On the board, write "I know what you mean." , "Yeah, but on the other hand.." and other such useful phrases, if you think it would be of benefit to your students.

While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, ask a few of the questions yourself, and go through any points of English you made a note of while monitoring.

The answer key can be found on the next page. 

Answer Key (Other answers may be possible.)

- ②
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| indispensable | very important |
| the preserve | suitable only for |
| bulky | large inconvenient size |
| rival | be as good as |
| bemoan | complain about |
| oblivious | not noticing |
- ⑤
1. Many people *bemoan* the manners of today's youth.
 2. Computers have changed a lot in recent years. Desktops used to be very *bulky*.
 3. Many free software packages *rival* commercial ones.
 4. Sumo wrestling used to be the *preserve of the* Japanese. Now many nationalities take part.
 5. Microwave ovens are nowadays *indispensable for* cooking.

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