ProTalk

Discussion Files



C1. The history of mobile communication

Afaq Language Center

Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the history of mobile communication.
- Can make a detailed comparison between the way phones were used in the 90s and how we use them now.



What do you think?

Most people in the modern world would be **lost** without their **phones**.

It is fair to say that many people **spend more time with their phone** than they do with their **loved ones or partner.**

This is a recent occurrence – the explosion of mobile **ownership** is one of the most **significant lifestyle shifts** in human history.

Defining technology

What technology do you think represents the current age?

Why?



Self-discipline

Do you follow any personal rules when it comes to using your smartphone?



Why?

How have mobile phones made an impact on the situations and activities below?









What has changed?

Has anything been lost or gained?

Read the text and summarize it.

The history of mobile communication



If one gadget or piece of technology could be said to capture the **zeitgeist** of this generation, it is the smartphone. They are our **ever-present** companions, able to stave off boredom, solve our every query and keep us **transfixed** by their power.

It is difficult not to wonder if we are the true masters of our smartphones, or if the reverse is true. This behaviour is relatively new – look back twenty years and the tremendous gulf between phones then and now beggars belief.

Read the text and summarize it.

History of mobile communication

Mobile phones existed in the nineties, but were not yet **ubiquitous**. Part of this can be attributed to their comical size, with many sporting an **antennae** and large buttons! This concept seems laughably dated compared to the slick, pocket-sized glass rectangles we have today.



Read the text and summarize it.

History of mobile communication

For most people, the phone was something plugged into the landline at home. If you were out and missed an important call, it was up to the caller to either catch you at another time or leave a message. Phone books were physical objects, recording all relevant numbers for the caller in one place. Patterns of behaviour regarding phone use 20 years ago is almost unrecognisable compared to now, when the average person checks their phone over 100 times a day. Habits have seemingly evolved in-kind with technology.



Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

debilitating	Steven suffered from a rare **debilitating** illness.
zeitgeist	Hendrix's guitar playing captured the **zeitgeist** of that moment in time.
transfixed	Susan **transfixed** me with an arresting gaze.
exacerbate	We should be cautious – we don't want to **exacerbate** the problem.

Consequences

Discuss some of the consequences of mobile phone overuse.
Do you recognise any of these symptoms?



diminished quality of sleep

headaches and dizziness

compulsion to check phone regularly

sore eyes

phantom vibration

depression and anxiety

Categorise

Categorise the consequences for mobile phone misuse below.
Can you think of anymore?

posture problems

avoidance of intimacy

depression and anxiety

development of obsessive compulsive disorder

shortened attention span

less social awareness

sleeping problems

deteriorating eyesight

Health	Social	Mental/Psychological

Taking a break

Do you think you use your phone too much?

Do you ever take a break from your smartphone?

If so, why?

Are there any downsides to taking a break from your phone?



connectedness

One of the greatest impacts of widespread mobile phone ownership is greater connectedness and convenience to people, services and work.

One contradiction of the smartphone is that while we are technologically more connected than ever before, we are also less accessible and more easily distracted.



We live in an age of ever-increasing **connectedness.**

Connectedness

How connected do you think people were in the 90s compared to now? Do you think people might have shared a different kind of connectedness?



1 Discuss phone habits in the 90s.

Connectedness

How has the smartphone revolution affected the connectedness of people?

Are people less connected in some ways?



1 Talk to the teacher about phone habits in the 90s.



2 Talk about the social changes brought about by widespread smartphone ownership.

Connectedness

Compare habits of phone use over time. Which generation was more connected, in your opinion?



1. Talk to the teacher about phone habits in the 90s.
2. Talk about the social changes brought about by widespread smartphone ownership.
3. In your opinion, are people more connected now? Use evidence from the previous steps to support your opinion.

Big question

Would you be interested in living in a world without smartphones?

Why or why not?

What would you find appealing or unappealing about this world?





Network providers

What new powers and influence might network providers have now compared with before?



digital slang

Digital slang is a dialect popularised by internet users and spread through the mediums of texting and instant messaging.

This type of slang originated as a way to save time and to compensate for the limited characters available to many messaging applications. It has since evolved into its own dialect.



Emojis and acronyms are forms of **digital slang**.

Big question

Does digital slang enrich English, giving young people a wider array of choices to express themselves?

Do you think that digital slang has a negative influence on the future of language?





Talk

Future of mobile phones

What will mobile phones look like in ten years' time?

How do you think communication will develop?

Are you excited or indifferent about the future of the phone?

Discuss the changes in our way of communicating and the potentials for new technology.

Presentation

Your friend Emma has been having some problems with insomnia. You noticed that she is a heavy mobile phone.

Prepare a two-minute presentation for her suggesting strategies she could follow to improve her night's sleep.

Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

