

Complete with the correct verb tenses:

The red phone box

The famous British red telephone box has been around now for about a century. It 1) _____ (be) a traditional symbol for tourists to Great Britain, similar to the black London taxis and double-decker buses. There have been a number of different designs for the public telephone box in Britain and the first ones were known as kiosks. The first standard version 2) _____ (introduce) **in 1921** and many slightly redesigned models have appeared since then. Those kiosks were painted red so that they could be easily recognised from a distance by a person in an emergency. Before the invention of the mobile phone, and even **before it** 3) _____ (become) common to have a telephone in the house, the public telephone box was a valuable facility **for** 4) _____ (make) calls to friends and family. Nowadays with most people owning mobile phones, there is far less demand for the public telephone box. Consequently, tens of thousands 5) _____ (remove). Some of the older ones 6) _____ (protect) as historical monuments. Others were sold to people who **wanted** 7) _____ (use) them as a shower in their bathrooms; a few have been turned into works of art. There 8) _____ (be) other changes to British telephones **in recent years**. As in other countries, there are **now** many companies that 9) _____ (offer) telephone services -such as Vodafone and T-Mobile. Mobile phones are now much more popular than fixed landlines, and for international phone calls Skype and other online options 10) _____ (become) more popular.