UNIT 6 – Gadgets

Reading 1

Skills:

- Details
- Understand negative facts
- Understand the author's opinions
- Understand vocabulary in context

Getting started: Do you use any app to know about the weather? Do you think it is necessary? Do you use a GPS in certain cases? When?

MOTO 360 SMARTWATCH



As computer chips get smaller and more powerful, it has become possible for them to drive something as small as a wristwatch. They tell the time, but their computers also make it possible to make and receive calls and messages and use apps as the watch connects to the phone network and internet. There are many examples of "smart watches," being the Galaxy Watch Active2 and the Apple Watch some of the most popular.

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The Apple Watch is a great, luxurious device but it's of no use whatsoever if you are one of the majority of the world's smartphone users who **own** an Android device. In that order of ideas, the Moto 360 smartwatch is a great device that will suit a big part of the population not to mention that it looks well thanks to its classy stainless-steel body, rotating crown, leather strap and comfortable feel.

This is the third generation Motorola watch, and it seems that this time they have achieved the balance between form and functionality. It is powered by WearOS (that's Android's but you can use it with iPhones too), and on the whole, the operating system is so much better now than it was a few years ago when people were concerned due to the different limitations it presented. All in all, WearOS has evolved and it's certainly a smarter and more robust platform although it still cannot be compared to the Apple WatchOS.

The watch itself not only looks cool, but it also has some pretty **novel** features that set it apart from other smartwatches. All the basics are here, of course, like notifications, weather reports, and GPS. You can pay for stuff using Google Pay and the Moto's **NFC** for contactless payments, and store music to play during your workouts. In general, the watch is very fast with smooth transitions between screens and no lag, which is important as there is no point spending some good money on a device that is not going to be efficient at all.

The always-on display is bright and sharp, adapting to the changing light conditions so you don't need to adjust your wrist or tap to see the time. After about a day and a half under normal use, it switches to time-only mode to save more battery life, which is great, but that said, an hour's charge should be enough for it to work for a whole day.

For the fitness inclined, it comes with a silicone strap, it's waterproof, and the Google Fit and Fit Training apps display the heart rate of the fitness and health tracker. Before the Moto 360 can record the heart rate and steps, you have to activate Google Fit and set the necessary permissions. Google Fit calculates cardio points from all the activities. The Fit widget displays the steps taken and the cardio points achieved in relation to the personal goals. If you click on the widget, you can get additional information. Finally, as if perfectly timed to launch during a

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coronavirus crisis, it also comes with a hand-washing timer so you can make sure you constantly disinfect your hands.

At a price of $199, the Moto360 smartwatch is a good and affordable Wear OS watch that has beaten its predecessors and feels very much like it's still a Motorola product. This is a good watch which is comfortable to wear, has good battery life, and a decent range of features.

**Adapted from https://www.sciencefocus.com/future-technology/cool-gadgets/*

Glossary:

- **NFC**: Near Field Communication (NFC) technology allows users to make secure transactions, exchange digital content, and connect electronic devices with a touch. NFC transmissions are short range and require the devices to be in close proximity.

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the author state about the Apple Watch?
    a. That it is a luxury not many people are willing to pay for.
    b. That it could be more popular if it had a nicer look.
    c. That it only suits a minor group of cell phone users.
    d. That it is the most popular smart watch in the market.

2. In paragraph 2, what is true about the Moto 360 smartwatch?
    a. It is stylish.
    b. It is made of metal.
    c. It has a cotton strap.
    d. It is a symbol of comfort.

3. The word **own** in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
    a. be in debt
    b. possess
    c. want
    d. buy

4. What is NOT stated about WearOS in paragraph 3?
    a. The previous version was not satisfactory.
    b. This new system has been better developed.
    c. WearOS is better than the Apple WatchOS.
    d. You can synchronize it with non-Android devices.

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5. The word **novel** in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to
    a. amazing
    b. literary
    c. weird
    d. new

6. What is stated about the Moto360 in paragraph 4?
    a. You can't know if someone has sent you a message.
    b. It is a really expensive device.
    c. It tells you if it will be sunny or rainy.
    d. You cannot keep your own music in this device.

7. According to paragraph 5, what is something positive about the watch?
    a. The display adjusts to the illumination of any place.
    b. The watch adapts to the shape of your wrist.
    c. The charged battery lasts for one hour.
    d. The screen is on whenever you tap it.

8. What is mentioned about the Moto 360 in paragraph 6?
    a. You should take it off if you're going to swim.
    b. The Moto 360 is a great gadget for those who often do exercise.
    c. The permissions you have to set make it so difficult to activate Google Fit.
    d. It records your heart rate and steps without making any previous adjustment.

9. What is the author's overall conclusion on the Moto 360 smartwatch?
    a. The Moto 360 is a good option considering its price and function.
    b. It's a very expensive watch that is not worth buying.
    c. Motorola still needs to improve its products.
    d. It could have better battery life.

What do you think?

Do you think gadgets like a smart watch are really necessary?

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