

# Electronic communication – mobile phones

## 1/ Listen to the recording, complete the text and decide, if the sentences below are true or false

cell    lines    microprocessor    photos    radio    signals  
flash    emails    antenna    movement

A cellular phone (or mobile phone) is designed to give the user freedom of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ while using a telephone. It uses (2) \_\_\_\_\_ signals to communicate between the phone and the (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The server area is divided into smaller areas called cells and an antenna is placed within each cell and connected by telephone (4) \_\_\_\_\_. These lines connect cellular phones to one another: a computer selects the antenna closest to the telephone when a call is made. If the phone moves to one serving (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to another, the radio signal is transferred to the actual cell without interrupting the conversation. The circuit board is the heart of the system. A chip translates the **outgoing** and **incoming** (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from analogue to digital and back from digital to analogue. The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ handles all the functions for the keyboard, the display and the loudspeakers, and it controls the signal to the base station. Other (8) \_\_\_\_\_ memory chips provide storage for the **operating system**. A cellular phone is not only a phone but it provides an incredible amount of functions:

- store information;
- use a calculator;
- send and receive (9) \_\_\_\_\_;
- surf the Internet;
- play simple games;
- play music, take (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and videos.

Can you imagine your life without your mobile phone?



### 6 Pairwork Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Mobile phones use radio signals to communicate. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The server area is divided into smaller areas called stations. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 An antenna is placed every two or three cells. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Communication with a mobile within a cell is independent from the base station. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 There are interruptions when you move to one cell to another. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The antenna is the heart of the system. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The signal must be translated. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 The flash memory handles all the functions. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Loudspeakers are controlled by the microprocessor. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 You can text and send emails with your mobile phone. \_\_\_\_\_

### The passive:

<i>am, is, are</i>	<i>-ed</i>	<b>Football <i>is played</i> on a pitch. Books <i>are still printed</i> in paper form.</b>
	<i>+</i>	<b>Cars <i>were made</i> in larger amounts 10 years ago.</b>
<i>was, were</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> form</i>	<b>The book <i>was written</i> in 1948.</b>

2/ Read the text, write suitable verbs in the past participle. Choose from the following verbs: *add, answer, invent, make, power, sell, share, steal, type, use*



## A brief history of mobile phones

- » Nearly a billion mobile phones are  every year worldwide.
- » The first mobile phone call was  in 1973 by Martin Cooper. He was an inventor for the company Motorola. The call was  by the boss of a rival company, who was not happy to hear that he had lost the race.
- » The first mobiles were  by batteries that weighed nearly a kilo.
- » Voicemail was  to phones in 1986. Internet access was not added for another ten years.
- » The first text message was sent in December 1992. It was not  on the phone itself but on a computer.
- » The camera phone was  in 1997 by Philippe Kahn. Photos of his newborn daughter were  via his phone with 2,000 friends and family.
- » In the UK, a mobile phone is  every three minutes.
- » What are mobile phones  for the most? It isn't texting or calling – it's checking the time!

**3/ Mobile phones fun facts. Complete the sentences with the present simple passive or past simple passive of the verbs in the brackets.**

- 1 Mobile phones  (own) by about 4.3 billion people in the world today.
- 2 The best-selling phone ever was the Nokia 1100. More than 250 million  (sell).
- 3 In Japan, mobiles  (often / use) in the shower, so most of them are waterproof.
- 4 The average text message  (usually / answer) within 90 seconds.
- 5 In 2012, 340,000 iPhones  (buy) every day
- 6 Today, the internet  (access) more often from a phone than from a computer.
- 7 More text messages  (send) every year in the Philippines than in any other country.
- 8 The world's toughest phone  (drop) 25 metres onto concrete and did not break.

**4/ You and mobile phones (write 80-100 words)**



How important is your mobile phone for you? Can you imagine living without it? How much money do you spend on it every month? What do you use it for mostly? If you are a driver, do you ever use your mobile while driving? What for? Have you ever used it in an emergency? How? Do you think that prolonged use of mobile phones can affect our health (cause headaches, emit radiation, damage brain cells etc.)?