

Unit 5 - Through the grapevine



A. Read the article

How are phones changing the way we communicate?

The number of cell phone and smartphone users in the world is increasing rapidly. It is estimated that there are over six billion cell phone users in the world. That's only one billion less than the total world population. Many of us find it hard to go anywhere without our cell phone. But what makes us so addicted to our phones, and what effect is it having on our lives?

"I never go anywhere without my cell phone. I check it every five to ten minutes to see if I have any messages," says Alex, aged 19. "If I get a message, I have to look at it immediately, or I start to feel anxious." "My cell phone is great because I can stay in touch with people. I never feel lonely or depressed. I can always talk to someone. And when I go out at night, I feel safer, too," Erika says, aged 23. As well as a means of communication, it's also a source of entertainment. Erika says, "My smartphone is really useful when I'm on a train or standing in a line. I never get bored."



The increased use of phone is starting to affect social and family behavior, too. A recent survey found that over half of adults and three quarter of teenagers say they use their cell phones during mealtimes with their family or friends. It can be annoying when someone's phone rings in the middle of dinner. The survey also found that the line between work and social time is becoming less clear. Thirty percent say they regularly make personal phone call during working hours. However, they also answer work call on their days off, or when they are on vacation.

B. Choose FACT or OPINION for each of the sentences from the article

1. It is estimated that there are over six billion cell phone users in the world.
2. My cell phone is great because I can stay in touch with people.
3. My smartphone is really useful when I'm on a train or standing in a line. I never get bored.
4. The increased use of phones is starting to affect social and family behavior, too.
5. It can be annoying when someone's phone rings in the middle of dinner.
6. The survey also found that the line between work and social time is becoming less clear.

C. Complete the phrases with ask, say, or tell.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. _____ a joke | 5. _____ hello / goodbye |
| 2. _____ permission | 6. _____ a story |
| 3. _____ what you think | 7. _____ a question |
| 4. _____ (for) a favor | 8. _____ the truth / a lie |

D. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrases in Exercise C

1. Can I _____ you _____? Could I use your car tomorrow?
2. My brother should be a writer. He _____ great _____!
3. My sister is so funny! She _____ a lot of good _____.
4. If you _____ _____, people won't trust you.
5. I think we can use this room for our meeting, but we need to _____ _____ first.
6. Leila is very direct. She always _____ _____ _____, even if other people don't like it.
7. Oh no! I forgot to _____ _____ to Maria when I left the party.
8. Can i _____ you _____? How do I turn on the printer.

E. Listen to the phone messages. Choose the correct word to describe how each speaker feels.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. a. angry b. sad c. excited | 3. a. sad b. nervous c. angry |
| 2. a. worried b. excited c. indecisive | 4. a. excited b. worried c. relaxed |

F. Listen again and complete the notes on the message pads.

MESSAGE FOR: Lindsey **TIME: 5:00**

Erica called. She has _____, call her back

PHONE MESSAGE

Dad - Leo called.
He wanted to ask you _____
He said he needs _____

MESSAGE

Rob - Lauren called. She knows _____
Bad news travels fast! She said she _____, so you'd better call her.

Mark, John called to say that it's OK to _____
He wants to _____
Call him later.