

# UNIT 6 - CELL PHONES

## Reading 1

Skills:

- Details
- Scanning

**Getting started:** Do you remember your first cellphone? What was it like?

### HOW MUCH CELL PHONES HAVE ACTUALLY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



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It's difficult to imagine a time without cell phones connecting us to people across the city, the country, and the world. Aspects like being able to change our background, type with a full keyboard (plus emojis) and send unlimited messages were all developed and introduced over a long period of time.

#### The first phone weighed over two pounds

In 1973, the first call from a Motorola mobile device was made with a phone that look like a brick and weighed about 2.4 pounds. Martin Cooper, an executive at Motorola, picked up the large device, one

that only worked for 30 minutes after a 10-hour charge, and called Dr. Joel Engel, an engineer at their rival company. Over the past half-century, the cell phone has become much smaller and easier to carry around, and it's evolved to connect us in ways that Cooper and Engel perhaps never imagined.

#### **In 1983, Motorola released a \$4,000 phone**

It took about 10 years to make the phone Cooper used for the first call available to the commercial public. In 1983, Motorola released the DynaTAC which was still big and heavy and cost approximately \$4,000. But it wasn't until 1989 that phones began to get smaller with the Motorola MicroTac, a **flip phone** small enough to fit inside a shirt pocket.

#### **Nokia got involved in the 2000s**

At the turn of the century, Nokia appeared in the cell phone market. The Nokia 6000 series introduced phones with durable, rectangular shape that fit perfectly into a palm, purse, or pocket. It was the first cell phone made at a low price. Around the same time, Samsung released the Samsung SPH-I300 which allowed its users to directly touch the screen of the phone to dial. Sound familiar? This phone easily resembles a distant relative of today's touchscreen smartphone, according to PC Magazine.

#### **A camera phone was released by Sprint in 2002**

In this year the US adopted the camera phone, something that was released in Japan first. In November 2002, Sprint started the trend with the Sanyo SCP-5300, a phone that cost \$400 and could only capture shots at 640 x 480 pixels. However, it wasn't until after smartphones became popular that the camera, and quality of the camera, improved.

#### **The RAZR was more than a cellphone**

By 2004, cell phone companies were competing in full force to make the phone not only function better but look better. The Motorola RAZR was released with its slim design and color screen. With the option to choose between silver, pink, blue, black, and a few others, it became a fashion statement as well as a means of communication.

#### **2007 welcomed the first iPhone**

It wasn't until the iPhone made its debut in 2007 that cell phones began transitioning from their role as a means for communication to a tool for daily tasks. With the first iPhone, Apple introduced

touchscreen functions, internet access through **Safari**, a virtual keyboard, and full rich-text email access. Although at the time the iPhone was revolutionary, the BlackBerry eclipsed the new release, maintaining popularity. With **BBM** instant messaging, everyone from teens to businessmen and rappers were obsessed with the BlackBerry. 2007 was the year that Twitter introduced shorter messages, and also the first time in history that Americans received and sent more texts than phone calls, according to the New York Times.

#### **Apple launched the App Store in 2008**

Just one year after the first iPhone release, Apple launched the App Store with 500 apps, and over 10 million applications were downloaded the first week. Android did the same a few months later with 50 apps in their store and the BlackBerry App World was created after that.

#### **The iPhone 4 changed everything**

In 2010, the iPhone 4 made its debut. It was a slim, futuristic-looking phone with a battery life that could keep up with the demand of users everywhere. In just a year, they improved the iPhone 4 with the iPhone 4S adding the first personal assistant, Siri. The same year, Samsung experimented with a larger size phone again, the Galaxy Note.

#### **The iPhone 8 embodies the future**

Released in 2017, Apple's iPhone 8 was a phone made from the most durable and beautiful glass, designed for the kind of lives we live with our cell phones now, one where we carry them everywhere. It's water resistant and has wireless charging features so that we never have to go without a phone. Apple also released the iPhone X with the slogan "Say hello to the future." One of its main features, face recognition, is being used to potentially push **Apple Pay** and the security around it.

Tech and phone companies continue to compete which means the cell phones they are creating will continue to evolve. It's hard to say what will be next, and it's even more difficult to know how the changes will affect the way we communicate and, potentially even, the way we think.

\*Adapted from <https://www.insider.com/the-history-of-the-cellphone-2018-7#the-first-phone-weighed-over-two-pounds-1>

#### **Glossary:**

- **Flip phone:** This is a phone that is more compact when closed. Then, when you open it, it reveals the screen, keypad, speaker and microphone.

- **Safari:** It is a Web browser developed by Apple, Inc., and is the default browser of the operating systems used in its product lines such as OS X for the Mac and MacBook computers and iOS for the iPhone and iPad mobile devices.
- **BBM:** Known by its full name BlackBerry Messenger, it was a mobile instant messenger and videotelephony application included on BlackBerry devices.
- **Apple Pay:** Apple Pay is a mobile payment and digital wallet service by Apple Inc. that allows users to make payments in person, in iOS apps, and on the web.

**Answer the following questions.**

1. Did you experience any of the moments mentioned in the text?
2. What were the main characteristics of the 1973 Motorola mobile device?
3. Was the 1983 Motorola DynaTAC cheap?
4. What phone is described as durable, small and inexpensive?
5. Where was the phone camera initially introduced?
6. Which cellphone stood out because of its nice design?
7. What big change took place in the United States in 2007?
8. When were people able to download apps for the first time?
9. Which big phone was released in 2010?
10. What technology could be used in the future for financial transactions?

**What do you think?**

Cellphone challenge: Could you spend the next week without using your cellphone? Why (not)? Which would be the positive and negative aspects?