



Drag the vocabulary word under the correct picture

Pay Phone

Cell Phone/Smart Phone

Landline

Phone Booth

Telephones: Now and Then

Telephones help people talk to one another. People use them when they are apart from each other.

For a long time, almost every telephone was a landline. A landline needs to be connected by a wire to a network of other telephones. A wire is a metal thread. Because of the wire, a landline has to stay in one place. Lots of people had this kind of phone in their home. But they could not take it with them when they left.

What if you had to make a call when you were away from home? You had to find a pay phone. Pay phones are landlines in public places. Many are on the street. The phones are inside glass or metal spaces. These spaces are called phone booths. You go into the booth and use coins to pay for a call.

Phones have changed a lot. Now people usually carry cell phones. These phones do not need to be connected with wires. They fit in an adult's hand and can be used almost anywhere.

Many cell phones are smartphones. A smartphone is a lot like a computer. People can use it to go on the Internet. They can use it to check their e-mail. All that can be done with something small enough to carry in a pocket!

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Comprehension Questions

1. What is a landline telephone?

- A. a telephone that needs to be connected by a wire to a network of other telephones
- B. a telephone that can be carried around in your pocket and used anywhere
- C. a telephone that can be found in a public place

2. The article describes an example of a landline. What is one example of a landline?

- A. a cell phone
- B. a pay phone
- C. a smart phone

3. Pay phones are probably not used as much today as they were in the past.

What piece of evidence supports this conclusion?

- A. People could not take landlines with them when they left their homes.
- B. Pay phones are landlines that can be found in public places.
- C. Many people today carry cell phones, which can be used almost anywhere.

4. What might be a reason that cell phones were invented?

- A. People wanted to be able to speak to one another when they were apart.
- B. People wanted to be able to make calls from their homes or offices.
- C. People wanted to be able to make calls away from home without finding a pay phone.

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5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Cell phones are much less useful than landlines and pay phones.
- B. Telephones have been used for many years, and they have changed a lot over time.
- C. Telephones are used to keep people apart as much as possible.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"What if you had to make a call while you were away from home? You had to find a pay phone. Pay phones are landlines found in public places."

Why does the author ask a question at the beginning of this paragraph?

- A. to hint to the reader that the author will answer that question
- B. to show that the author does not know the answer to that question
- C. to tell readers to give their own answer to that question

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Landline telephones were used for many years _____ people began using cell phones.

- A. before
- B. after
- C. while

8. What do all telephones help people to do?

9. What did people used to do to make a call when they were away from home?

10. How are today's cell phones different from yesterday's landlines?