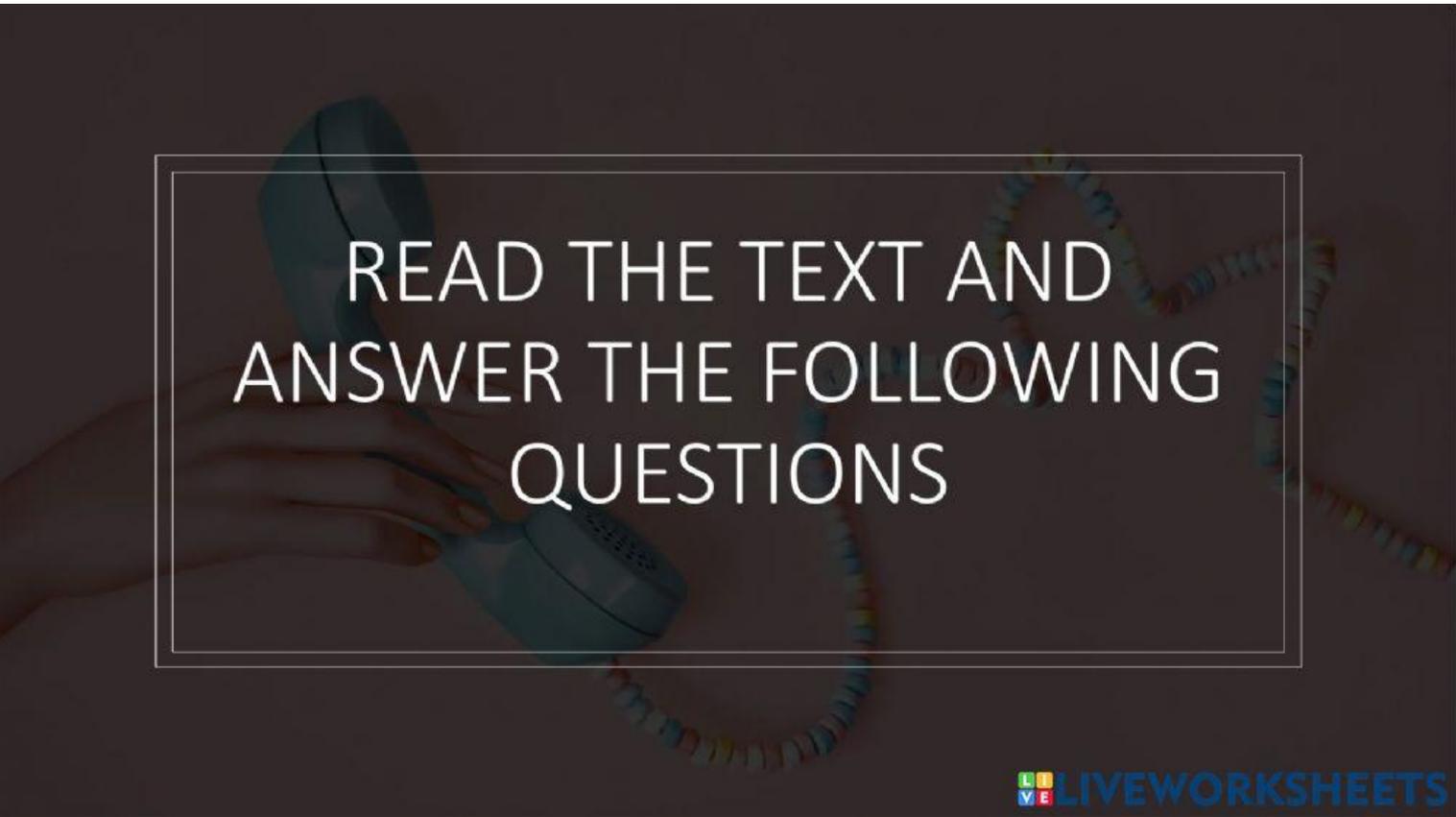


FULL BLAST UNIT 1

READING PART 2

BY TC LIYANA

A hand holding a blue telephone receiver with a coiled cord. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

READ THE TEXT AND
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS

In 1973, Martin Cooper invented a portable mobile phone. It was the DynaTAC and it in 1983, it was available in shops. DynaTAC phones were large and weighed about a kilogram. They were also very expensive, but people used to buy them like crazy. However, people complained that you could only talk for an hour before needing to charge them again, so soon heavy should packs with batteries in them were introduced. These gadgets became very trendy in the 80s and actors appeared in many films of the time, chatting to friends on their new, hi-tech **device**.

Because of their size and shape, these early mobiles became known as 'bricks'. They seem like dinosaurs compared to the devices we are used to seeing today. The first generation (1G) of mobile phone systems had **weak** signals and many problems. As technology improved, mobiles become smaller and offered more features.

In the 90s, the introduction of 2G mobile systems meant improved reception over wider areas. They also included the ability to send small amounts of **data** such as Short Message Service (SMS) messages. The first SMS was sent in the UK on 3 December 1992. Today, over 2 trillion text messages are sent every year. Mobiles continued to improve, with coloured screens and a wide variety of ringtones. Another important development was the introduction of cameras on mobile phones. Camera phones became hugely popular and changed the world of journalism. In 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake was the first event in which most of the videos on the news were provided by camera phones, instead of professional camera **crew**.

In the early 2000s, 3G mobile Internet was introduced which made it possible for people to use a new generation of 'smartphones' . These devices have large touchscreens and act as Internet browsers, media players and game consoles all in one. They have also made video calling and mobile TV a reality. With the introduction of 4G mobile Internet, the speed which phones can both download and upload information to the Internet is far greater than ever before. Of course, companies are always coming up with new ideas and exciting 'concept' phones. Some of these ideas include solar panels on the back of the phone for charging, a flexible phone that can bend on your wrist, and even a phone that uses cola to charge its battery. Everyone is trying to find out the next big step in the evolution of mobile phones. But what will it be? Only time will tell.

READ THE TEXT AGAIN AND WRITE T (TRUE), F (FALSE) OR NM (NOT MENTIONED)

1. DynaTAC phones weren't very popular when they first appeared in shops. _____
2. People complained about the heavy shoulder packs. _____
3. The first mobile phone was nicknamed 'dinosaur'. _____
4. You couldn't send SMS messages before the 1990s. _____
5. Videos from mobile phones of the Indian Ocean earthquakes weren't allowed to be used on news programmes. _____
6. Smartphones became possible because of 3G network technology. _____
7. Solar-powered mobile phones will be available in the next ten years. _____

- What would life be without mobile phones?

- What would you like mobile phones to be able to do in the future?

