

Phone language

VOCABULARY phone language

4.1 Listen and match what you hear to the sentences.

- A He's **dialling** a number.
- B She's **texting (messaging)** a friend.
- C He's just **hung up**.
- D She's choosing a new **ringtone**.
- E He's **calling back**.
- F She's **left a message** on his **voicemail**.
- G The line's **engaged (busy)**.
- H She's **swiping** through photos.
- I His phone **went off** in the middle of a meeting.
- J She needs to talk to a helpline, but they've **put her on hold**.
- K He was **cut off** in the middle of a conversation.

4.2 Listen and check. Practise saying the sentences.



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Match the words from the list to definitions 1–12.

call back cut sb off dial engaged / busy go off
hang up leave a message put sb on hold ringtone
swipe text / message voicemail

- 1 to send sb a message using a mobile phone
text / message
- 2 to make a caller wait until the person they want to talk to is free
put sb on hold
- 3 to phone sb again or phone sb who called you earlier
call back
- 4 to start ringing
go off
- 5 to record information for sb to listen to later
leave a message
- 6 an electronic system that can store messages so that you can listen to them later
voicemail
- 7 to stop or interrupt sb's phone conversation
cut sb off
- 8 to push the buttons on a phone to call a number
dial
- 9 the sound your phone makes when sb is calling you
ringtone
- 10 to move content across a screen using your finger
swipe
- 11 meaning that a phone is in use and can't be called
engaged / busy
- 12 to end a phone conversation and put the phone down
hang up

Complete the sentences with the words from a.

- 1 I wanted to speak to my boss personally, so I didn't leave a message.
- 2 If I give you my phone, you can swipe through my holiday photos.
- 3 We turned off our phones at the start of the film to make sure they didn't go off.
- 4 We were put on hold when the train I was on went into a tunnel.
- 5 I need to choose another ringtone because I never hear the one I've got.
- 6 I couldn't talk to my bank because the phone was engaged.
- 7 When you call big companies they often put you on hold for a long time.
- 8 John isn't answering his phone, so I'll have to call back later.
- 9 Did you listen to your voicemail last night? I left you a message.
- 10 I usually hang up when companies call me to try to sell me something.
- 11 I don't have to save my friends' numbers because they're all in my contacts.
- 12 Can you text your brother and tell him we're going to be late?