CELL PHONES

Reading 3

FUTURE MOBILE PHONES: WHAT´S COMING OUR WAY?

SKILLS:

-Details
- Make inferences
- Author's attitude
- Understand vocabulary from context

Getting started:

What is something you wish your cell phone could also do?

The mobile phones of the future are expected to be more related to our day-to-day lives than ever before. Some industry experts predict that mobile phones will become remote controls for our whole lives, while others say that, in the future, mobile phones will run our lives for us. One thing's for sure, the technology involved in mobile phones and networks has developed so rapidly over the last few years that it's going to be an exciting ride. Here is a list of some of the things we might be able to expect from the phones of the future:

Holographic displays

Holograms have been a regular feature in sci-fi and futuristic films. But how close are we to touch-free technology on smartphones? Back in 2014, rumors were flying around about the iPhone 6 containing holographic functions that allowed you to beam virtual displays to interact with. Unsurprisingly, this technology didn't make it onto the iPhone 6 or later phones. Holographic phones could one day be a reality, though, especially if the Holoflex prototype designed by researchers from Queen's University in Canada could come to life.

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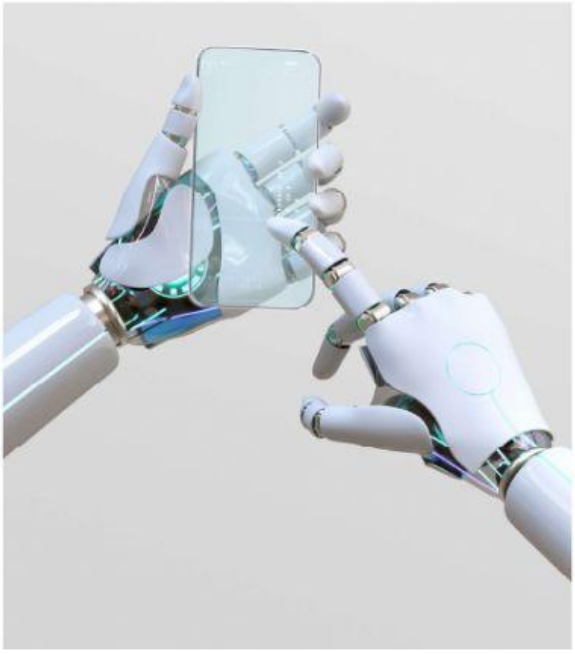

As the name suggests, the HoloFlex is both holographic and flexible, allowing users to bend the handset to view the 3D display and interact with the images on screen. The HoloFlex is still in development and won't be available any time soon.

Flexible Frames

For a long time, phone companies have talked of creating a smartphone that is so flexible that it can actually be folded in two. One such vision was Nokia's The Morph phone, a 2008 prototype that promised to "transform the user's experience". Designed by Tapani Tyhanen, former director and head of Nokia's Research Center Laboratory, The Morph could be folded, bent and reshaped to suit the user's needs. The Morph phone could even be wrapped around your wrist to transform into a GPS for hiking and extreme sports. Similarly, Samsung has been showing off other types of flexible concept phones at technology shows for years now, but so far, the closest it has come to bringing the technology to market was the Galaxy Round smartphone.

Educational tools

Experts believe that in the future, mobiles will change the way we learn and teach. With more school children having a mobile phone, a future where phones are both learning and teaching tools is highly possible. The multi-functional nature of mobile phones as educational aids could be increasingly popular, especially as different types of apps are released every single day. It's possible that in the future, mobile phones will be used in the classroom as a collaborative tool that can help the teacher and the students work on different topics.

Eco-friendly smartphones

At the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona in 2016, Kyocera showed a solar-powered prototype. However, this technology won't replace the need for a wall charger anytime soon. This phone was primarily designed for users who work outdoors, as well as people who like to be away from a power source for an extended period of time, such as people hiking. Still, the company claims that three minutes of sunshine will give you enough charge for a one-minute phone call, which could provide users with an emergency charging option if their mobile dies far from home.

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Another concept phone promising a green alternative is the 2009 Mechanical Mobile prototype by Mikhail Stawsky. **Unlike** the solar powered prototypes, the Mechanical Mobile runs on kinetic energy. The idea is that you spin the phone round on your finger to charge it up. The obvious benefit of this, besides helping the environment, is that you could charge this phone anywhere. However, it's unclear how much finger-spinning it would need to boost the battery significantly, and we can predict there will be many broken phones (and possibly broken noses) as the result of this activity.

We see a future where everything is connected, and our smartphones can communicate with virtually every possible device. As long as you have it with you, your front door will open once you get near it, or you'll be able to unlock your car and start the engine just by having your phone around. Who knows what else we will be able to see?

**Adapted from https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/future-of-mobile-phones/*

Answer the following questions:

1. What can be inferred from paragraph 2?

a. Holographic functions will be part of many cell phones in the next two years.
b. The holographic function will be patented by Queen's University and no other technology company will be able to use this feature.
c. The HoloFlex will be bought by Apple, and the new iPhones will include holographic functions.
d. Many years will pass until we can see cell phones that incorporate holographic functions.

2. What can be deduced about the term concept phones in paragraph 3?

a. These are very popular commercial phones.
b. They are phones released in the previous two years.
c. These are just prototypes that are no sold to the public.
d. There are phones used only by sportspeople.

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3. How does the author seem to feel about using cell phones for educational purposes?

a. He/she thinks it is already happening as one out of three kids has a cell phone.
b. He/she believes a cell phone can be a tool to generate interaction in the classroom.
c. He/she seems to be against using cell phones in the classroom.
d. He/she thinks a cell phone is a tool to interact, but it's not an educational tool.

4. The word unlike in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to

a. exact
b. similar to
c. inaccurate
d. different from

5. What is wrong with the charging technology proposed by Kyocera?

a. It could take a long time to be able to charge the phone completely.
b. The technology works only with emergency calls.
c. It could only be used in Barcelona, Spain.
d. This works only if you plug your phone into the wall for three minutes.

6. How does the author seem to feel about the idea of spinning your phone to charge it?

a. It is the best option in order to help the environment.
b. It may be practical, but it can cause accidents also.
c. It is a good way to exercise your fingers.
d. It is the worse idea ever.

What do you think?

Which of the previous ideas did you like the most? Why?

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