



Britain Today – Features

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Changing times

Recently, my daughter found something at the back of a cupboard. She described it: 'It's a box, about the same size and weight as a brick. It's made of plastic and has buttons with numbers on.' She hoped it was a machine for travelling through time! She was wrong – it was my first mobile phone!

Finding my old phone made me think about how fast things change. Everyday objects used by one generation are unknown in the next generation. Here are some examples.



a cassette tape



This small, rectangular box is made of plastic. There are two small wheels inside. Around the wheels there is a brown tape. This tape moved from one wheel to the other. It was used for recording or playing music.

a record



We also listened to music on records. These are large, flat, round things and people play them on a record player. My record player was more modern than this one. This gramophone is a very early record player. It is made of wood and metal.

My grandparents used one for playing records. a gramophone



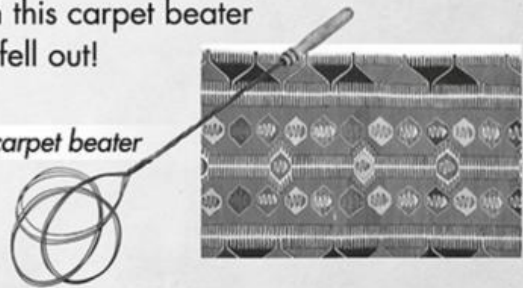
a candle snuffer



This also belonged to my grandparents. It is long and thin. It is made of metal. It has a handle at one end and the other end looks like a bell. It was used for putting out candles. I think it is easier to blow!

This thing is made of metal with a wooden handle. It was used for cleaning rugs. My grandmother hung her rugs on a line in the garden. Then she hit them with this carpet beater and the dirt fell out!

a carpet beater



If you think these things are funny, remember the things you use today may also look funny to your children and grandchildren!

Date: _____

**B** Read the magazine article again and write short answers.

- 1 Which two things have the same use? _____
- 2 Which two things in the article are made of wood and metal?

- 3 Find one word in the article which means 'a group of people who were born and live at around the same time'.

**C** Blacken ● the circles.

- 1 Why does the writer tell us about her daughter?

☐ A. to show how quickly things change	☐ B. to show that her daughter is funny
☐ C. to show how good her daughter is at finding things	☐ D. to introduce the topic of travelling through time
- 2 The ____ did not belong to the writer's grandparents.

☐ A. cassette tape	☐ B. gramophone	☐ C. candle snuffer	☐ D. carpet beater
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- 3 Read about the candle snuffer. What does 'put out' mean?

☐ A. (phr v) to put something outside, e.g. <i>We always put out the rubbish at night.</i>
☐ B. (phr v) to stop something burning, e.g. <i>The firemen put out the fire.</i>
☐ C. (phr v) to put something in a place where someone will see it so that they can use it, e.g. <i>We put out food for the birds in winter.</i>
☐ D. (phr v) to produce information for people to see, hear or read, e.g. <i>The police have put out a warning about an escaped prisoner.</i>
- ★ 4 Which sentence is NOT true?

☐ A. The writer and her grandparents listened to records.
☐ B. The writer thinks candle snuffers are useful.
☐ C. The writer thinks that in the future we won't use the same things that we use now.
☐ D. The writer's daughter didn't know what old mobile phones look like.