



Name:

Class:

Objective: Practise reading for specific information

Growth of global telephony

Telephone technology has changed dramatically since Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. The biggest change has been the development of mobile phones. Here's a look back at the most important advances in mobile phone technology.

1973 The first mobile telephone call was made on April 3, 1973 by Martin Cooper, who was working for a telephone electronics company at the time. He is known as "the father of the mobile phone".

He made his first call, standing in the street in New York City. The ~~portable~~ phone he was using weighed about one kg – about the same as a bag of sugar. The battery allowed the user to talk for only 30 minutes – and took ten hours to charge!

1983 A decade later, in 1983, the first mobile phones were sold in the US. They were sold at a price of about £2,500 each.

1986 Voicemail was added to mobile phones in 1986, but text messages were not invented until several years later.

1990 By 1990 there were a million mobile phone users in the USA.

1992 The first text message was sent on 3 December, 1992, by Neil Papworth, a computer engineer in the UK. At the time mobile phones didn't have keyboards so it was sent via a personal computer.

According to Ofcom, the average person in the UK now sends 50 text messages every week, but an average of 193 texts are sent every week by 12-15 year olds.

1993 In 1993 the first smartphone was invented. This bulky phone had a calendar, fax, touch screen and several other features.

1996 In 1996 users could access the internet on smartphones. This is also the year in which QWERTY keyboards were first added to smartphones.

1997 The first camera phone was invented by a French man called Philippe Kahn, and the first photo sent by a mobile phone was in 1997. Kahn sent photos of his new baby daughter, Sophie, from the hospital where she was born.

The 21st century The bestselling mobile phone, which was launched in 2005, was made in Finland. More than 250 million devices were sold, making that phone the highest selling technological gadget in history. The phones are now iconic and are still sold second-hand.

Even with all the features smartphones now have, and all the things they can do, mobile phone technology is still growing. Who knows what the next developments will be?

★ **Read the text and decide whether the statements are True or False.**

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1- Martin Cooper was Known as "the father of the mobile phone" | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2- First mobile phone had a long battery life. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3- Text messages were invented in 1986 | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4- More than 250 million smart phones were sold in 2005. | TRUE | FALSE |

★★ **Put the stages of mobile development I the correct order.**

Voice mail was added.
First smartphone was invented.
First text message was sent.
First phone call was made.
First camera phone was invented.
First mobile phones were sold.

★★★ Decide what do these pronouns refer to:

1- Who (line 2) -----

2- They (line 10) -----

3- it ((line 16) -----

Challenging questions: What do you think were the three most important years for mobile development? Why?

What is the best age for owning a mobile phone? Why?

