

## The UK: A mobile nation?

A recent survey in the UK showed that more than a million children get their first mobile phone when they're five! It also showed that 10% of children under 16 have got better mobile phones than their parents!

Most parents in the UK buy mobile phones for their children when they start secondary school. This is so their children can call them if they have any problems. But what about the five-year-olds? The survey shows that mums and dads buy phones for younger children so they can play games and watch videos.

Teenagers use mobile phones in the UK more than any other group. 93% of all British teenagers have got a phone, and 81% have got a smartphone. Texting, looking at photos and listening to music are three of the most popular activities. Teenagers also check social networks, like Facebook, play games and watch TV programmes on their phones.

Teenagers in the UK spend about 31 hours a week online: on phones or on computers. A lot of people worry that technology is bad for them. They don't think that teenagers should spend all their time in front of a computer because it's unhealthy. But there is a positive side too. Mobile phones help young people learn to use technology for communication, collaboration and creativity. These things will be very important for them in the future.

**Fact** On average, people respond to a text message within 90 seconds of receiving it!



\*\* To be able to listen to the audios, follow the instructions below:

<https://www.cambridge.es/catalogo/secundaria/cursos/smart-planet/acceso-digital> : Open link. Go to level 2 – Student's Book (CLICK) – Unit 6 (CLICK) – Digital Book (CLICK) – page 66.

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- How many children get a mobile phone when they're five in the UK?
- Why do most secondary schoolchildren get a mobile phone from their parents?
- How do five-year-olds use their mobiles?
- What type of mobile phone is most popular with British teenagers?
- What are three of the most common activities for teenagers on their mobiles?
- Why do some people think technology can be bad for teenagers?

 **Get it right!**

Remember, *children* is an irregular plural: ... *more than a million children*. (X ... *more than a million childrens*)

\*EXERCISE 3

- 1
- 2 They get
- 3 The most popular
- 4
- 5
- 6 They think

\*WRITE FULL ANSWERS.