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# The history of ✨ mobile communication

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_4044S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

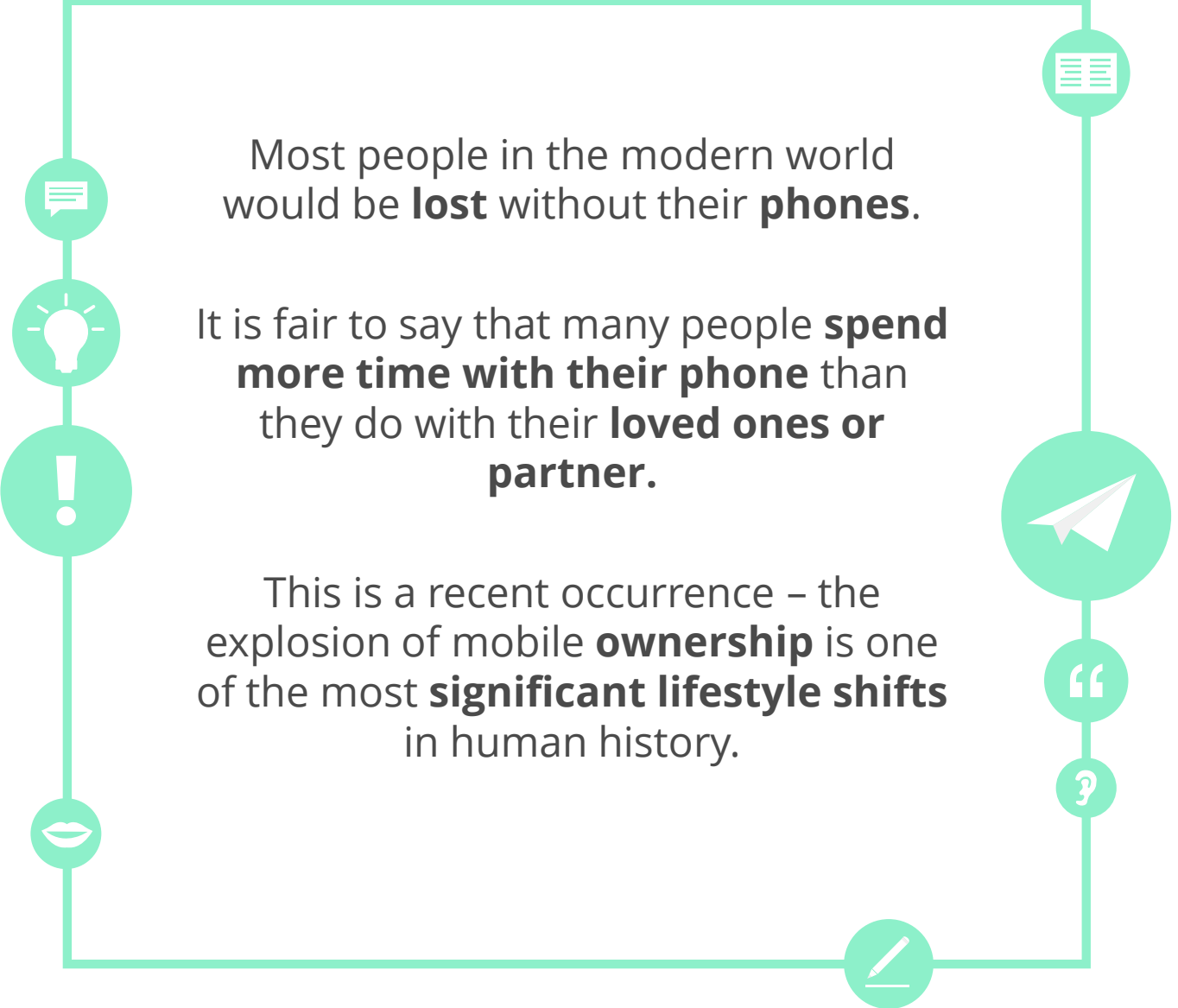




## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex text about the history of mobile communication.
- Can make a detailed comparison between the way phones were used in the 90s and how we use them now.





Most people in the modern world  
would be **lost** without their **phones**.

It is fair to say that many people **spend  
more time with their phone** than  
they do with their **loved ones or  
partner**.

This is a recent occurrence – the  
explosion of mobile **ownership** is one  
of the most **significant lifestyle shifts**  
in human history.



## Defining technology

What technology do you think  
represents the current age?  
Why?





## Self-discipline

Do you follow any personal rules  
when it comes to using your  
smartphone?





# Why?

## How have mobile phones made an impact on the situations and activities below?



What has changed?



Has anything been lost or gained?



## The history of mobile communication



If one gadget or piece of technology could be said to capture the **zeitgeist** of this generation, it is the smartphone. They are our **ever-present** companions, able to stave off boredom, solve our every query and keep us **transfixed** by their power.

It is difficult not to wonder if we are the true masters of our smartphones, or if the reverse is true. This behaviour is relatively new – look back twenty years and the tremendous gulf between phones then and now beggars belief.



## History of mobile communication

Mobile phones existed in the nineties, but were not yet **ubiquitous**. Part of this can be attributed to their comical size, with many sporting an **antennae** and large buttons! This concept seems laughably dated compared to the slick, pocket-sized glass rectangles we have today.







## History of mobile communication

For most people, the phone was something plugged into the landline at home. If you were out and missed an important call, it was up to the caller to either catch you at another time or leave a message. Phone books were physical objects, recording all relevant numbers for the caller in one place. Patterns of behaviour regarding phone use 20 years ago is almost unrecognisable compared to now, when the average person checks their phone over 100 times a day. Habits have seemingly evolved in-kind with technology.





## New words

**debilitating**

Steven suffered from a rare **debilitating** illness.

**zeitgeist**

Hendrix's guitar playing captured the **zeitgeist** of that moment in time.

**transfixed**

Susan **transfixed** me with an arresting gaze.

**exacerbate**

We should be cautious – we don't want to **exacerbate** the problem.



## Consequences

**Discuss some of the consequences of mobile phone overuse.  
Do you recognise any of these symptoms?**



diminished  
quality of sleep

headaches and  
dizziness

compulsion to  
check phone  
regularly

sore eyes

phantom  
vibration

depression and  
anxiety



## Categorise

**Categorise the consequences for mobile phone misuse below.  
Can you think of anymore?**

posture problems

avoidance of  
intimacy

depression and  
anxiety

development of  
obsessive  
compulsive disorder

shortened  
attention span

less social  
awareness

sleeping problems

deteriorating  
eyesight

Health

Social

Mental/Psychological

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## Taking a break

Do you think you use your phone too much?

Do you ever take a break from your smartphone?

If so, why?

Are there any downsides to taking a break from your phone?



## connectedness

One of the greatest impacts of widespread mobile phone ownership is greater connectedness and convenience to people, services and work.

One contradiction of the smartphone is that while we are technologically more connected than ever before, we are also less accessible and more easily distracted.



We live in an age of ever-increasing **connectedness**.



## Connectedness

**How connected do you think people were in the 90s compared to now?  
Do you think people might have shared a different kind of  
connectedness?**



1

Discuss phone habits in the 90s.



## Connectedness

**How has the smartphone revolution affected the connectedness of people?**

**Are people less connected in some ways?**



1

Talk to the teacher about phone habits in the 90s.



2

Talk about the social changes brought about by widespread smartphone ownership.





## Connectedness

**Compare habits of phone use over time. Which generation was more connected, in your opinion?**



1

Talk to the teacher about phone habits in the 90s.

2

Talk about the social changes brought about by widespread smartphone ownership.

3

In your opinion, are people more connected now? Use evidence from the previous steps to support your opinion.



## Big question

**Would you be interested in living in a world without smartphones?**

**Why or why not?**

**What would you find appealing or unappealing about this world?**





## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on  
training your listening comprehension



## Listen to the teacher and fill the gaps

Many express \_\_\_\_\_ about the debilitating consequences of mobile misuse. Some users can develop an addiction to or \_\_\_\_\_ on their devices which eerily mirrors that of \_\_\_\_\_ abuse. Excessive mobile phone use has also been found to \_\_\_\_\_ or even cause health problems. Headaches, dizziness, memory loss and a lack of concentration can all be attributed to excessive \_\_\_\_\_ time. Smartphone use is also widely known to have serious effects on sleeping patterns, causing \_\_\_\_\_.



**Do you know anyone who suffers negative health effects from overuse of their mobile phone?**



## New words

pervaded

A somber atmosphere **pervaded** the room.

reaping

If you invest in those stocks now, in ten years you will be **reaping** the benefits.

insomnia

David struggled with **insomnia** and fatigue.

antennae

The **antennae** were torn off the roof in the storm last week.



## True or false?

1. Mobile phones existed in the nineties but were not yet ubiquitous.

☐☐

2. Symptoms of mobile phone dependency can surpass those of substance abuse.

☐☐

3. Instant messaging has had little impact on youth culture.

☐☐

4. People are more emotionally connected with mobile phones.

☐☐

5. The average person checks their phone over 200 times per day.

☐☐

6. Health concerns about mobile phone addiction have been overstated.

☐☐



# History of mobile communication

**Summarise the history of mobile. Use the three headings below to structure your response, you can use notes to assist you with your mini presentation.**



1

Origins of mobile communication

2

The impact of smartphones

3

Mobile technology in the future



## Network providers

**What new powers and influence might network providers have now compared with before?**





## digital slang

Digital slang is a dialect popularised by internet users and spread through the mediums of texting and instant messaging.

This type of slang originated as a way to save time and to compensate for the limited characters available to many messaging applications. It has since evolved into its own dialect.



Emojis and acronyms are forms of **digital slang**.



## Big question

**Does digital slang enrich English, giving young people a wider array of choices to express themselves?**

**Do you think that digital slang has a negative influence on the future of language?**





## Talk

Future of mobile  
phones

What will mobile phones look like in ten years' time?

How do you think communication will develop?

Are you excited or indifferent about the future of the phone?

Discuss the changes in our way of communicating and the potentials for new technology.



## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Transcription

Many express anxiety about the **debilitating** consequences of mobile misuse. Some users can develop an addiction or dependency to their devices which **eerily** mirrors that of substance abuse. Excessive mobile phone use has also been found to **exacerbate** or even cause health problems. Headaches, dizziness, memory loss and a lack of concentration can all be attributed to excessive screen time. Smartphone use is also widely known to have serious effects on sleeping patterns, causing **insomnia**.



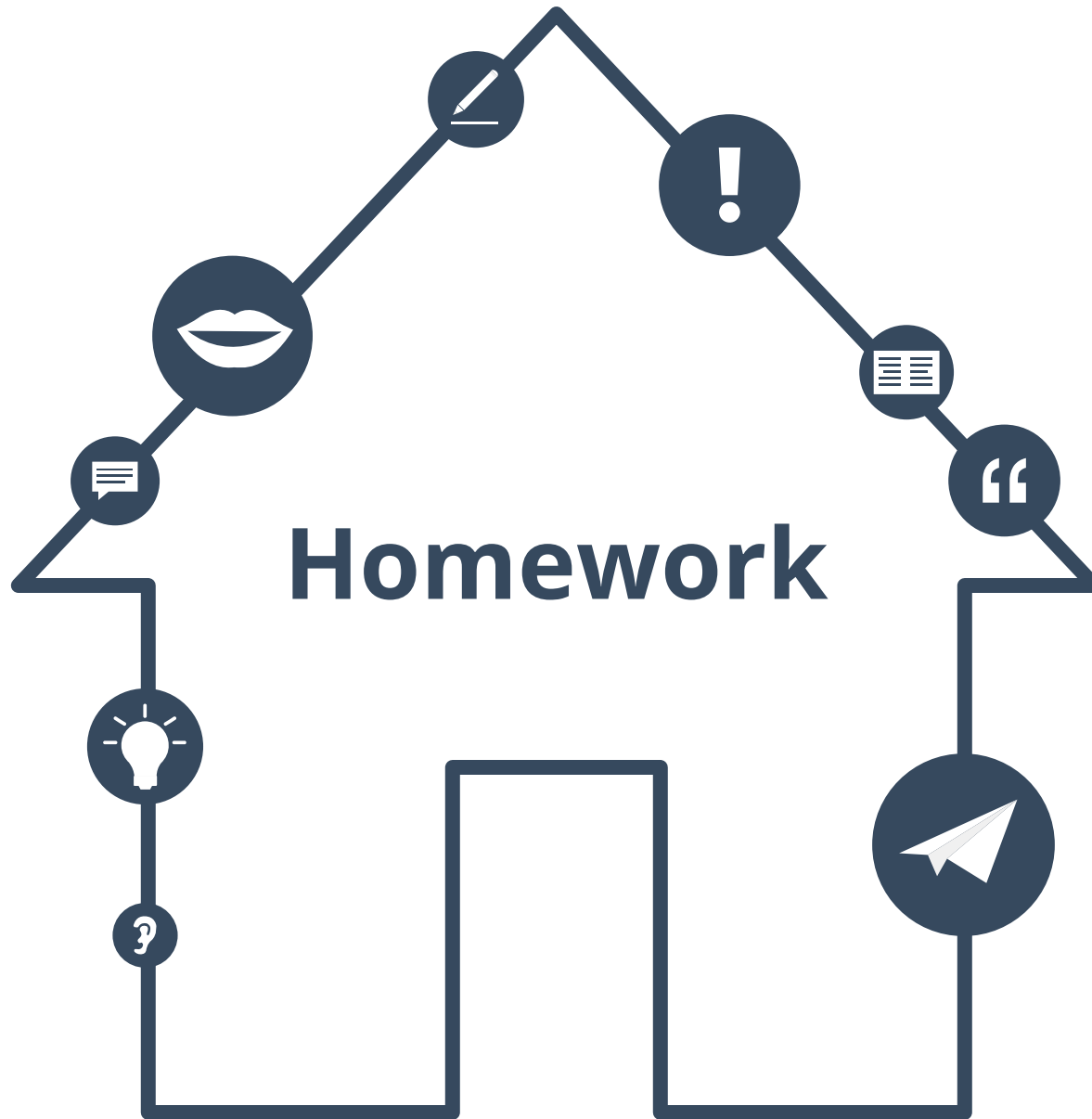
## Transcription

Instant messaging has replaced the phone call in the majority of circumstances. The convenience that messaging apps provide is **immeasurable**, giving birth to a whole dialect of associated language - emojis, acronyms and digital slang. It boasts speed, ease of use and security, with the ability to share media across the world in seconds. The **proliferation** of selfies and digital sharing culture fostered by instant messaging has reshaped youth culture and **pervaded** almost every strand of human life. Telecommunications companies have thrived off the back of this revolution, **reaping** substantial profits and increasing their influence and scope. Technological innovation looks set to continue to **evolve**.



## Answer key

**Activity p. 20** anxiety, dependency, substance, exacerbate, screen  
**Activity p. 22** 1T, 2F, 3F, 4F, 5F, 6F

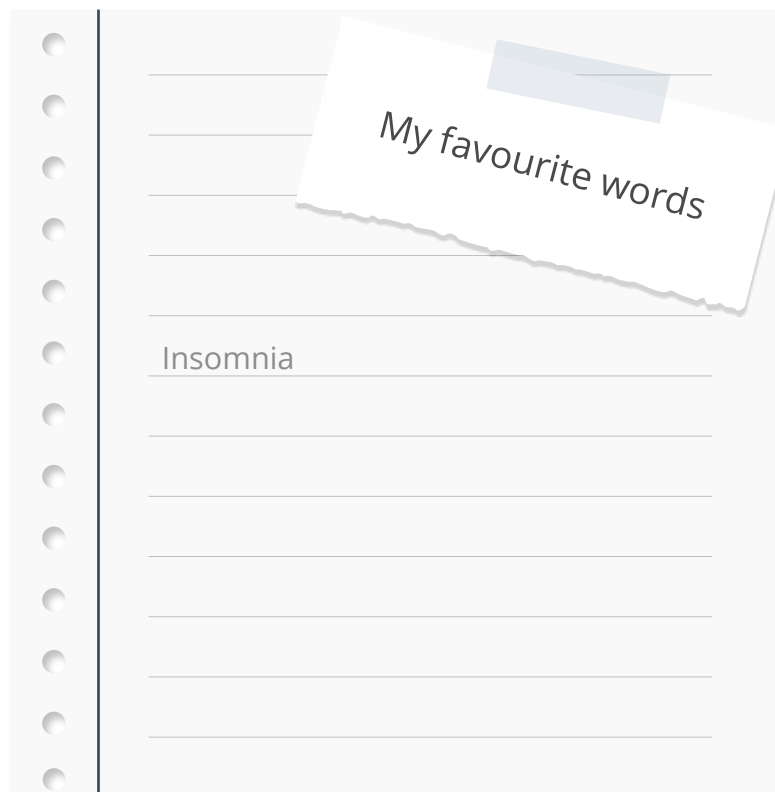






## Important words

**Update your list of important words with some vocabulary from this lesson.**





## Write about your knowledge of the history of the mobile phone

Use the words from the previous slide in sentences to commit them to your active vocabulary.



On busy days, I spend so much time on my phone that I can't sleep at night. I've never suffered from insomnia before!



## Email task

**Your friend Emma has been having some problems with insomnia. You noticed that she is a heavy mobile phone user. Write an email to her suggesting strategies she could follow to improve her night's sleep.**

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□

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To: Emma@fakemail.com

Subject: Sleeping advice

Hi Emma,



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