

Discussion Vocabulary

¹ **apps** = online computer programs usually designed for mobile phones; abbreviation for "applications"

² **a waste of time** = not using your time in a valuable way

³ **unplug** = stop using digital or electronic devices for a period of time



Discussion Questions *Think about what you'll say in English. Write some notes for your ideas.*

Notes

1. What kind of phone do you have? Do you like it? Why or why not?
2. What **apps**¹ do you use most often on your phone?
3. How much time do you spend on your phone every day?
Do you think it's too much?
4. Do you prefer to call people or send them text messages? Why?
5. How does the internet make your life easier? Give specific details.
6. Do you play games on your phone? Which ones?
Do you think playing games is **a waste of time**²?
7. Do you think you spend too much money on your smartphone bill every month?
8. Do you prefer to study by yourself, or with some friends? Why?
9. Do you think that your parents should be able to limit how much time you spend on your phone?
10. Do you think it's a good idea to "**unplug**³" from your online life once in a while? Do you ever "unplug"?

What's Wrong? *Correct these sentences.*



- X** I looked videos on my phone for 3 hours last night.
 /
- X** Using a smartphone is very convenience. It helps me with everything.
 Using a smartphone is very
- X** I like to write pictures using an art app on my phone.
 I like to

Discussion Question Responses

- Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Check your answers with a classmate.*
- Practice reading the discussion questions and the example responses below with a classmate.*
- Use the discussion questions as conversation starters. Take brief notes of your partner's answers. Try to give long answers, make comments, have reactions, and ask follow-up questions.*

chat	how	messages	research	waste
guess	important	refreshed	tell	weather

Partner's Name

()

Notes

- I have an iPhone. I love it. It's the most () thing in my life.
- I use LINE and YouTube the most. I check a () app every morning to see if it's going to rain later in the day.
- I don't know how much time I spend on my phone. Maybe 3 or 4 hours, I ().
- I prefer sending text (). I don't really like talking on the phone.
- The internet has so much information. It is very useful especially when I need to write a report or do some ().
- I don't play any games on my phone. I think that it is a complete () of time.
- To be honest, my parents pay for my smartphone bill. I don't know () much it is.
- I prefer to study by myself, but I often () online with my friends while I study.
- No way. I don't want my parents to () me when to stop using my phone. I just want them to pay for it!
- Yes, it's a good idea. Sometimes I'll go for a walk in the woods and don't bring my phone. I always feel () afterwards.

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Smartphone Addiction



Story Track 2

A mother is having an **argument**⁴ with her high school-aged daughter about using her phone too much. The mother thinks the daughter is clearly **addicted**⁵, but the daughter doesn't see it that way. (Students can do a little acting for this situation. They can use a smartphone as a prop. They should get a little angry.)

Mother: Cathy, we have to talk!

Cathy: **Just a sec**⁶, mom. I want to finish texting Jennifer.

M: Enough, Cathy! You've been texting Jennifer for over three hours! Turn off your phone. Now!

C: Really, mom? Alright. What?

M: Cathy, you're on your phone **way too much**⁷.

C: Mom, this is normal. This is how people communicate these days.

M: It's not normal! You are **constantly**⁸ on your phone, taking **pictures**^{*}, texting, watching **YouTube**^{*}, chatting with your friends. I never see you doing your homework.

C: Mom, I do my homework. I like to chat with my friends when I study, but we *are* doing homework. My **grades**⁹ are fine, you know that.

M: I know that your grades could be a lot better if you stopped wasting your time watching stupid YouTubers.

C: They're funny, mom. You just **don't get it**¹⁰. You should smile a little more.

M: You're not listening to me. I'm going to have to take your phone away from you.

C: You can't do that!

M: Yes, I can. I bought you that phone and I pay the bill every month. End of **discussion**¹¹!

C: Mom, please don't do this! I might *die* without my phone!

M: Do you even hear yourself right now? You wouldn't *die* without your phone. You can live without it ... for a week!

C: A week? Please, mom. No!

M: You are a **slave**¹² to your phone! I don't want you to become a **brainless**¹³ zombie like so many other kids.

C: I won't, mom. I'm not a brainless zombie. Please, please, don't!

Pronunciation Practice

pictures^{*}

YouTube^{*}

Main Text Vocabulary

⁴ **argument** = a fight using words, a verbal disagreement

⁵ **addicted** = can't stop doing something

⁶ **just a sec** = just a moment; please wait

⁷ **way too much** = to an extreme extent

⁸ **constantly** = always

⁹ **grades** = school scores for tests and homework

¹⁰ **don't get it** = don't understand

¹¹ **discussion** = a serious conversation

¹² **slave** = a person who is controlled by another person or system

¹³ **brainless** = having no thoughts, stupid

Main Text Questions

1. What does the mother think about Cathy and her phone usage?

- She thinks that Cathy is addicted to her phone.
- She thinks that Cathy is texting Jennifer.
- She thinks that Cathy doesn't use her phone enough.
- She thinks that Cathy communicates with YouTubers.

2. What does Cathy think about her phone usage?

- She thinks it's better to text than talk on the phone.
- She thinks she should become a YouTuber.
- She thinks she's addicted.
- She thinks it's normal.

3. What does the mother **intend**¹⁴ to do with Cathy's phone?

- take it back to the shop
- take it away for a week
- make Cathy pay for the phone bills
- attack Cathy with the phone

¹⁴ **intend** = plan on doing

4. What is the mother afraid of her daughter becoming?

- a slave to Jennifer
- a slave working for the phone company
- a brainless zombie
- a funny YouTuber



Further Discussion

Group Members:

Work with a group. Talk about the following questions. Take notes for yourself and the other members.

#1 Cathy has been texting Jennifer for over three hours.
Do you think that this is too much?

Notes:

#2 Do you think that Cathy's mother has the right to take away her smartphone?
Why do you think so?

Notes:

#3 If you were Cathy's mom, what would you do?

Notes:

Writing

Choose one of the questions below. Write 50 to 100 words. Write on pages 126 to 131.

- If you were a parent, would you make some rules about smartphone use for your teenage children? What would they be?
- Should elementary school children be allowed to have smartphones? What is an **appropriate**¹⁵ age for children to get their first smartphone?
- What do you think would be a good idea for a new app?

¹⁵ **appropriate** = good and correct