

**Level:** Pre-intermediate–Intermediate (A2–B1)

**Age:** Teenagers

**Time:** This lesson can be divided up in various ways to suit the time you have with your students. Below are two options which you can choose from depending on the length of your class.

90 minutes – full lesson plan

60 minutes – if you omit the phone quiz and reading activity (from Phone survey)

**Summary:** This lesson is divided into two sections: Our high-tech world and Phone survey. In the lesson, students will:

1. find out if they are a technophobe or technophile;
2. do a mobile phone quiz;
3. conduct a survey on their classmates' mobile-phone use;
4. use phone expressions.

**Key skills:** computers, communication, surveys, percentages

**Materials:** one copy of each worksheet per student



## OUR HIGH-TECH WORLD

1. Put students in small groups. Hand out a copy of the Our high-tech world worksheet to each group. Tell them to correctly label all the pictures in English. When they have finished, check the answers as a class and then go through the discussion questions together.

2. Tell students they are going to do a questionnaire to find out if they are a *technophobe* or a *technophile*. Write both the words on the board. Ask if anyone knows what they mean. If not, explain them.

- *technophobe* – someone who does not like, trust, or want to use technology, especially computers
- *technophile* – someone who is positive about technology, adopts new forms of technology enthusiastically and sees it as a means to improve life

3. Give students time to complete the questionnaire.

4. Students should swap questionnaires and mark their partner's answers. They should read their partner the interpretation of their final score.

### Key:

1. PC – Personal Computer; WWW – World Wide Web; CPU – Central Processing Unit; FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions; ISP – Internet Service Provider; URL – Uniform Resource Locator; HTTP – Hypertext Transfer/Transport Protocol.

5. Ask the students if they agree with the interpretation based on their final score. Ask them to explain why or why not.



**TEACHING TIP:** As an expansion activity you could ask the students if they know any other acronyms or abbreviations in English. It is a good idea to teach them some commonly used abbreviations like ASAP (as soon as possible), FYI (for your information) and ETA (estimated time of arrival).

## PHONE SURVEY

1. Write the following dates and statistics on the board:

1992 – 1 in 237 of the world's population

2002 – 1 in 5 of the world's population

2014 – 6 in 7 of the world's population

Ask your students what they think the figures refer to. Let them brainstorm some ideas. After a couple of minutes ask the class for feedback.

2. Reveal that the figures refer to the number of mobile-phone users worldwide. Are the students surprised? Do they know anyone without a mobile?

3. Hand out the Phone survey worksheet and set up the quiz. Students should work with a partner and try to agree on the answers.

4. When they have finished, ask students to read the Phone facts text on the next page and find the correct answers. They should also underline any information that they find surprising.

**Key:**

1. a; 2. b; 3. a; 4. c; 5. c; 6. a; 7. b; 8. a; 9. c; 10. a

5. Confirm the answers with the class. Which facts surprised students the most?

6. Tell students they are going to conduct a class survey on mobile phone use. Brainstorm some ideas for questions. Here are some examples, if students get stuck:

- *How often do you check/use your phone?*
- *Who do you message most?*
- *How do you share the photos you take?*
- *Do you find it annoying when people use their phones too much?*
- *Do your parents try to limit how much you use your phone?*
- *What apps do you use most?*

7. Students should work alone to write five questions to ask their classmates.

8. Students conduct their survey. Make sure you tell them the minimum number of people you expect them to talk to. They must make brief notes of the answers.

9. Allow students some time to collate their answers. Then, go through the Phrasebook on the worksheet, which has useful phrases for talking about the results of a survey.

10. Put students in small groups and get them to discuss the most interesting results of their survey with each other, using the phrases from the Phrasebook.

11. Ask students for some examples of typical phrases used when making phone calls. Write them on the board.

12. Next tell students to look at the Phone expressions section. Ask students to match the phrases on the worksheet (1 to 8) with the synonymous expressions (a to h).

**Key:**

1. e; 2. g; 3. a; 4. h; 5. b; 6. d; 7. f; 8. c

13. Check the answers with the class by reading out one of the sentences a to h and nominating a student to read out the corresponding sentence 1 to 8.

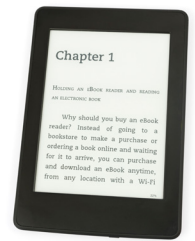
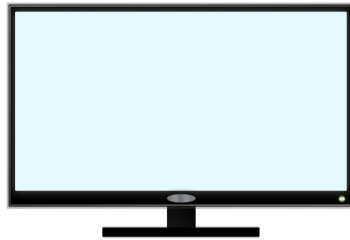
**HOMEWORK TASK**

Ask students to think of a situation when they might need to make a dramatic or urgent phone call. For example, perhaps they want to break up with their girlfriend or boyfriend, call the police or call to complain about a product or service. They must write a phone conversation based on this situation, using at least four of the phone expressions from the final activity. Students can complete the homework task on their own or you can ask them to collaborate with a partner. In the following lesson, students then read their phone conversations to the class.

## YOUR TECHNOLOGY

Look at the pictures below. Which of the items do you recognize? Using the words in the box, label each item:

<p><b>mouse</b> <b>keyboard</b> <b>monitor</b></p>	<p><b>speakers</b> <b>printer</b> <b>laptop</b></p>	<p><b>mobile phone</b> <b>tablet computer</b> <b>satnav</b></p>	<p><b>e-reader</b> <b>electronic organizer</b></p>
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## DISCUSSION

- Which item do you use regularly?
- Which is the most/least useful?
- Are there any other items of technology that you cannot do without?\*

\*to do without something means to live without it

## TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONNAIRE

Are you a technophobe or a technophile? Complete the questionnaire and find out whether you have a love or hate relationship with technology.

**1. How many of these acronyms do you know? (2 points for each)**

- a. PC
- b. WWW
- c. CPU
- d. FAQ
- e. ISP
- f. URL
- g. HTTP

**2. Which of these things do you have at home?**

- a. a desktop computer (5)
- b. a tablet computer (10)
- c. a laptop computer (5)
- d. an e-reader (3)
- e. a smartphone with 3g or 4g (10)

**3. What do you do with your computer?**

- a. write text documents (2)
- b. stream music and/or videos (3)
- c. send emails (1)
- d. shop (3)
- e. share photos (5)
- f. use social networking sites (3)
- g. play games against other players online (10)
- h. design and maintain your own web page (15)

**4. How much time do you spend on your smartphone?**

- a. I don't own a smartphone. (0)
- b. less than an hour a day (2)
- c. more than an hour a day (5)

**5. How much time a day do you spend surfing the web?**

- a. none (0)
- b. less than an hour a day (3)
- c. between one hour and two hours a day (5)
- d. more than two hours a day (10)

Your final score \_\_\_\_\_

**How to interpret your score**

**0–9** For you, a mouse is a small furry animal, letters are sent in envelopes with stamps on them and webs are what spiders make. Either you don't really understand computers or you would secretly prefer to be living in a different century (the 19th?).

**10–34** You have a healthy relationship with computers. You enjoy using them but are not addicted. For you, technology makes life easier but you could live without it and the real world still means more to you than the virtual one.

**35–49** You like to have the latest computer gadget as soon as it comes out and probably can hardly remember how to use a pen. Be careful not to lose touch with the real world.

**50+** You left the real world behind years ago. You do everything via the internet, from shopping to making friends. Your ambition is probably to have your brain uploaded onto a computer and live forever in cyberspace!

## MOBILE PHONE QUIZ

Test your knowledge of mobile phones in this quiz.

**1. What were the first words ever spoken on a telephone?**

- a. 'Mr Watson, come here; I want to see you.'
- b. 'Mr Watson, I'm on my way home.'
- c. 'Sorry, wrong number.'

**2. When were mobile phones invented?**

- a. in the 1960s
- b. in the 1970s
- c. in the 1980s

**3. Your mobile phone has more computing power than the computers used for the Apollo 11 moon landing.**

- a. true
- b. false
- c. Nobody knows.

**4. How many people own a mobile phone?**

- a. 1 billion
- b. 4 billion
- c. 6 billion

**5. How many iPhones a day did Apple sell in 2012?**

- a. 340
- b. 3,400
- c. 340,000

**6. What is the bestselling mobile phone in history?**

- a. Nokia 1100
- b. iPhone 4S
- c. Samsung Galaxy S4

**7. Mobile phones have ...**

- a. three times
- b. 18 times
- c. 100 times

**... more bacteria than toilet handles.**

**8. What is the busiest day for phone calls?**

- a. Mother's Day
- b. Valentine's Day
- c. New Year's Day

**9. Are phones equally popular with men and women?**

- a. Yes.
- b. No, they are more popular with men.
- c. No, they are more popular with women.

**10. Of the time spent using their smartphones, people spend 13% ...**

- a. ... checking the time.
- b. ... messaging.
- c. ... making phone calls.

## PHONE FACTS

**What were the first words ever spoken on a telephone?** The words 'Mr Watson, come here; I want to see you' were spoken by Alexander Graham Bell, the Scottish-born inventor, to his assistant, Thomas Watson, on 10 March, 1876.

**When were mobile phones invented?** Mobile, or cellular, phones were invented in the 1970s. They were originally used in cars, planes and trains.

**A mobile phone has more computing power than the computers used for the Apollo 11 moon landing.** In fact, the computers used for the moon landing were only as powerful as a pocket calculator.

**How many people own mobile phones?** Six of the world's seven billion people have a mobile phone. And, shockingly, more people have mobiles than toilets.

**How many iPhones did Apple sell per day in 2012?** A massive 340,000. During that period, more Apple phones were sold in a day than babies born.

**What is the bestselling electrical device in history?** 250 million Nokia 1100s have been sold, more than any other single model. They are still very popular on the second-hand market.

**Are mobile phones dirtier than toilet handles?** After tests were carried out, it was revealed that the average mobile has 18 times more potentially harmful germs than a handle in a men's toilet.

**What is the busiest day for phone calls?** Touchingly, more calls are made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year. The day beats Valentine's Day, New Year's Day and Christmas Day.

**Are phones equally popular with men and women?** Three out of four women agree with the statement 'I really enjoy using the telephone', compared with two out of four men. And a third of the women say they organize all or almost all of their social engagements with their mobile phone, compared with less than one-tenth of the men.

**How do people use their smartphones?** Smartphone users spend the greatest proportion of their time messaging – this accounts for 16%. Next comes calling, which makes up 15%. The third most popular use of a smartphone is, surprisingly perhaps, checking the time – users spend 13% of their smartphone time doing this. It looks like we don't need watches anymore!

## CLASS SURVEY

**Write five questions to ask your classmates, then carry out your survey.**

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## PHRASEBOOK

**Feeding back on the results of a survey**

- I asked my classmates ...
- ... how often they check their phone.
- ... who they message the most.
- ... how they share the photos they take.
- The vast majority of them said ...
- Around half of them said ...
- Some said ... and some said ...
- A small proportion of them said ...
- The most popular answer among my classmates was ...
- Surprisingly, nobody mentioned ...
- It was no surprise to discover ...
- Predictably, most people ...
- Generally speaking, my classmates ...
- One person admitted that they ...
- The person who uses their phone the most / takes the most photos, etc is ...

## PHONE EXPRESSIONS

The following are typical phrases used on the telephone. Match the phrases (1 to 8) with another way to say the same thing (a to h).

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Hold on.                   | a. I can't make the call I want.                 |
| 2. Is Stanley there?          | b. This isn't the number you want.               |
| 3. I can't get through.       | c. Don't end the call.                           |
| 4. It's engaged.              | d. I can't hear you – the connection isn't good. |
| 5. You have the wrong number. | e. Wait a moment.                                |
| 6. It's a bad line.           | f. I'll return your call.                        |
| 7. I'll call you back.        | g. Could I speak to Stanley?                     |
| 8. Don't hang up.             | h. The line is busy.                             |