

Pre-Intermediate 2
Unit 2 Reading
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Cell Phones: Hang up or Keep Talking?

cell phone (American) = cellular phone = **mobile phone** (British)

hang up = bring a telephone conversation to an end; stop talking on the phone

keep = continue

Millions of people are using cell phones today. In many places, it is actually considered unusual not to use one. In many countries cell phones are very popular with young people. They find that the phones are more than a means of communication — having a mobile phone shows that they are cool and connected.

consider = take into account, believe, think

be considered = be taken into account, be believed, be thought

unusual = strange, weird, abnormal

means = tool, method, way

communication = keeping in contact with other people

cool and connected = up-to-date, trendy

The explosion around the world in mobile phone use has made some doctors worried. They are concerned that in the future many people may suffer health problems from the use of mobile phones. Mobile phone companies are worried about the negative publicity of such ideas. They say that there is no proof that mobile phones are bad for your health.

explosion = bursting, blowing up, a sudden increase

use _(verb) /ju:z/ = to put something such as a tool, skill, or building to a particular purpose

use _(noun) /ju:s/ = the act of using something

concerned = worried

suffer = to experience physical or mental pain

publicity = the attention that a person, product, or organization receives from newspapers, television, etc. when something happens that people are interested in

such ideas = ideas like this

proof = evidence = a fact or piece of information that shows that something exists or is true

On the other hand, why do some medical studies show changes in the brain cells of some people who use mobile phones? Signs of change in the brain and head can be detected with modern scanning equipment. In one case, a traveling salesman had to retire at a young age because of serious memory loss. He couldn't remember even simple things. He would often forget the name of his own son. This man used to talk on his mobile phone for about six hours a day, every day of his working week, for a couple of years. His family doctor blamed his mobile phone use, but his employer's doctor didn't agree.

detect = discover

equipment = tools

retire = stop working for ever because you are too old or unable to work

because of = due to

➤ *Robert didn't go to school because of his illness.*

because = for the reason that

➤ *Robert didn't go to school because he was ill.*

memory loss = losing one's memory

He would often forget = He often forgot

used to ⇒ **a habit in the past**

- Roger used to smoke. = He smoked in the past, but now he doesn't.
- This man used to talk on his mobile phone for about six hours a day. = He talked on his mobile phone for about six hours a day, but now he doesn't.

a couple of = two or three

blame = hold responsible

What is it that makes mobile phones potentially harmful? The answer is radiation. High-tech machines can detect very small amounts of radiation from mobile phones. Mobile phone companies agree that there is some radiation, but they say the amount is too small to worry about.

potentially = possibly

radiation = energy in the form of waves or particles (= any of the smallest pieces of matter that make up atoms)

high-tech ≠ low-tech

high-tech = using the most advanced and developed machines and methods

amount = quantity

As the discussion about their safety continues, it appears that it's best to use mobile phones less often. Use your regular phone if you want to talk for a long time. Use your mobile phone only when you really need it. In the future, mobile phones may have a warning label that says they are bad for your health. So for now, it's wise not to use your mobile phone too often.

as = while = during the time that

safety = being safe = a state in which or a place where you are safe and not in danger or at risk

label = tag

so = therefore

wise = logical, reasonable

Full Text:

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The explosion around the world in mobile phone use has made some doctors worried. They are concerned that in the future many people may suffer health problems from the use of mobile phones. Mobile phone companies are worried about the negative publicity of such ideas. They say that there is no proof that mobile phones are bad for your health.

On the other hand, why do some medical studies show changes in the brain cells of some people who use mobile phones? Signs of change in the brain and head can be detected with modern scanning equipment. In one case, a traveling salesman had to retire at a young age because of serious memory loss. He couldn't remember even simple things. He would often forget the name of his own son. This man used to talk on his mobile phone for about six hours a day, every day of his working week, for a couple of years. His family doctor blamed his mobile phone use, but his employer's doctor didn't agree.

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As the discussion about their safety continues, it appears that it's best to use mobile phones less often. Use your regular phone if you want to talk for a long time. Use your mobile phone only when you really need it. In the future, mobile phones may have a warning label that says they are bad for your health. So for now, it's wise not to use your mobile phone too often.

Sample Summary:

Many people use cell phones, especially young people who like them very much. Having a cell phone shows that you are trendy and up-to-date. Doctors worry that cell phones might cause health problems in the future, but phone companies say there's no proof of harm. Some studies show changes in brain cells of heavy users. The concern is about radiation, although companies claim it's minimal. For now, doctors recommend us to use our cell phones less often and rely on regular phones for longer conversations.

Source:

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