

MODERN GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

English Language Skills & Communication Workshop

Level: B2

Student Name: _____

Group / Class: _____

Date: _____

TASK 1: READING — HOW MOBILE PHONES CHANGED OUR LIVES

Instructions: Read the text below about how mobile phones have changed our lives. Think of **ONE** word that fits into each blank numbered (1) to (14).

Some time ago, if we wanted to call someone, we had to be at home to do so. There were public phones in the street, but it was often difficult to find (1) _____ that was working. Sometimes there were long queues before it was your turn to use them. In addition, you had to bring a lot of coins to (2) _____ for the calls. As a result, people didn't phone their friends as often (3) _____ they do today.

Today's mobile phones allow us to talk with friends and family (4) _____ we are on the move. They (5) _____ dramatically changed the life we lead. Before the age of the mobile phone, parents would sit around worried when their children would be coming home. There (6) _____ no quick calls to say that there would be more guests for dinner. We left notes on fridges or desks to communicate messages.

However, mobile phones have also had a negative (7) _____ on our lives. We often don't realize that we have lost something very valuable: our privacy. Today, our friends and family can get in (8) _____ with us wherever and whenever they want to. We can never get (9) _____ from them.

The way people communicate with (10) _____ other is completely different now. It's not so easy to sit in a café and have a casual conversation without (11) _____ interrupted by a phone call every few minutes. Most people don't see anything wrong in having a long conversation on their mobile phone while forgetting about the person they are sitting (12) _____ to.

A solution would be to leave our mobile phones at home or turn them (13) _____ completely. But nobody does that. Most people are (14) _____ of missing something important if they don't have their phones with them at all times.

TASK 2: LISTENING — FOUR NEW GADGETS

Listening Link / Audio Source: [Four New Gadgets Listening Track](#)

Part A: Listen to the radio programme. In what order do you hear about the items below? Write numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes.



Watch Phone

[Box: ____]



Smart Toaster

[Box: ____]



Chariot Skates

[Box: ____]



Hand Warmer

[Box: ____]

Part B: Listen again. Choose the correct answer (a, b, or c):

1. How much does the phone cost?

- a) £50 b) £500 c) £5,000

2. What is the toaster made from?

- a) glass b) plastic c) cardboard

3. Why are Chariot Skates better than ordinary skates?

- a) their wheels are big b) you can ride them anywhere c) they are made from plastic

4. Where do you put the hand warmers?

- a) in your skates b) in your pockets c) in your gloves

Part C: Answer the following questions based on the listening track:

1. What is the make of the watch phone (Samsung, LG Electronics, or Sanyo)?

4. When will these skates be in the shops?

2. Why will you never burn your toast again with this toaster?

5. What is the perfect use for the hand warmer, according to Kenneth?

3. Where is the Chariot Skates' inventor from?

6. How long can the hand warmer keep warm?

VOCABULARY TRAINING

Task 3. Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. My new smartphone has a much longer battery _____ than my old one.
a) duration b) life c) existence d) time
2. This smartwatch can _____ your heart rate while you are exercising.
a) track b) follow c) control d) observe
3. I always use a screen _____ on my phone to protect it from scratches.
a) cover b) guard c) protector d) shield
4. The device connects automatically when it is within _____ of the router.
a) reach b) range c) distance d) area
5. My laptop runs slowly because too many apps are _____ in the background.
a) operating b) functioning c) running d) working
6. You should regularly _____ your operating system to improve security.
a) upgrade b) update c) renew d) replace
7. This tablet has a large _____ screen for watching films conveniently.
a) touch b) touchscreen c) touching d) tactile
8. The headphones have noise-_____ technology for busy places.
a) reducing b) reduction c) reduced d) reducer

Task 4. Complete each sentence with a suitable word or phrase from the box. (Two extra items)

Box: wireless connection | voice recognition | portable | storage capacity | user-friendly | charge | compatible | notifications | privacy settings | malfunction

1. I prefer a _____ keyboard to avoid cable clutter.
2. This small camera is extremely _____ for travel trips.
3. Check if the app is _____ with your operating system.
4. The phone has a large _____ for photos and videos.
5. I changed my _____ to secure personal information.
6. The smart speaker uses _____ for voice commands.
7. The application is very _____ for beginners.
8. I turned off social media _____ to avoid distractions.
9. My tablet started to _____ ; I need a service centre.
10. Don't forget to _____ your smartwatch before bed.

Task 5. Complete sentences using the correct word form or collocation:

1. Modern gadgets offer greater _____ for remote work.
(FLEXIBLE)
2. One advantage of cloud _____ is file access anywhere.
(STORE)
3. Consider device _____ with your existing hardware.
(COMPATIBLE)
4. Fitness trackers help users _____ physical activity.
(TRACKER)
5. Smartphones provide advanced _____ like facial recognition.
(SECURE)
6. Smart devices have a high dependence _____ internet access.
7. My phone keeps _____ battery even when idle.
8. Reducing energy consumption makes devices more _____.
(ENVIRONMENT)
9. Deleted files can be _____ from cloud backups.
10. Advanced features are useless if the device is hard to _____.

CREATIVE TASKS & SPEAKING

Creative Task 1: Design the Ultimate Gadget

Invent a new gadget for university students in pairs/small groups. Decide its name, problem solved, target user, 3–5 features, connectivity, cost, and disadvantages. Give a 2-minute presentation.

Creative Task 2: Gadget Emergency

Your smartphone malfunctions abroad (no boarding pass or bank app). Discuss in pairs: What went wrong? What works? Can you fix it? Alternative technology? Who can help?

Creative Task 3: The Gadget Debate

Statement: "Modern gadgets make our lives easier, but also make us too dependent on technology." Group A supports, Group B opposes across communication, education, work, health, privacy, security, and social relationships.

Useful Language: One major advantage is... / Another point worth considering is... / Gadgets allow us to... / One possible drawback is... / I partly agree because... / From my perspective... / *Final 30-s conclusion: "The gadget I could/couldn't live without is... because..."*