

Got a new mobile? Think twice before you throw the old one away!

Recycling our old mobile phones is something we often mean to do. But by the time we remember to do it, we decide that they're so old they're worthless, and we throw them away. But are they really?



(1) 'Only about 3–4 per cent of the phones we receive can't be repaired,' says Simon Walsh, Sales and Marketing Director for a British phone recycler.

As a phone arrives at a recycling centre, it goes through a rigorous testing process, which starts with a check to ensure that it's not been lost or stolen.

(2) Many phones are then passed to specialized repair centres.



Even mobiles that can't be repaired are valuable.

(3) Batteries contain nickel which can be used to make stainless steel for saucepans. The plastics in phones can be **melted down** to be made into traffic cones.

Of the phones that can be reused, about 20% stay in the UK. The rest of them are sent to places in Asia and Africa where they are specially needed because there are few landlines.

But there's more to it than that. It's good to recycle and reuse **second-hand** mobiles from the UK, but the countries which receive the mobiles also need to recycle them.

(4)

This is a growing problem because some mobile phone parts contain **dangerous chemicals**.

(5) . The phone's electrical circuits contain lead, which can cause brain damage.

It's estimated that there are more than 500 million used mobile phones around the world. If we send all of them to landfills, over 130,000 kilos of lead will be **released into the soil**. (6) .

The even greener alternative to recycling seems almost unthinkable. It's to keep your current phone for more than the usual twelve months!

Glossary

nickel

/ˈniːkl/

a hard, silver-white metal

lead

/led/

a soft, heavy, grey metal used in the past for water pipes or to cover roofs

Adapted from www.techradar.com

The best Saturday job I ever had...

Shelf-stacker, dog-walker, and baby-sitter — most of us would have one of these classic Saturday jobs at the bottom of our CVs, if we were being strictly accurate. For the teenagers of today, however, it is far more difficult to find part-time work.



A Sir Ranulph Fiennes, explorer

When I was 16, I wanted to buy a canoe and needed £85. I washed the buses at Midhurst bus station between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. during the week. Then I washed the dishes at the Angel Hotel from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. I was paid £11 per week in all, and that's how I got the cash. It is too long ago to know if I actually learnt anything from the experience.



B Russell Kane, comedian

I did two humiliating Saturday jobs. The first was **selling** vacuum cleaners **door to door**. I didn't sell a single one. The other job was working with my granddad for a frozen-food **delivery service**. I doubt that a Saturday job really teaches you anything. Where I come from, it's automatic: at age 11 you get a job. It wasn't, 'Hey man, I'm really learning the value of work.' It was, 'If I want money, I must work for it.' My dad never gave me a penny of pocket money after the age of 11.



C Tony Ross, illustrator and author

In the fifties, when I was a boy, I used to work at the Post Office over Christmas. Many of us did it, and it was fantastic fun. I earned enough to buy an old motor scooter. My favourite part was going in the lorry to collect the mail bags from the station, because you didn't have to walk the streets all day. The other good thing was doing **a round** with your own house in it, because then you could stop for a cup of tea. I learnt the basics of working for money like arriving on time, and enjoying it no matter what. It was a good introduction because very few people work for fun. I think I'm probably the only one.



D Clive Stafford Smith, lawyer

I worked for a sand and gravel* company when I was 16. It was cold, damp, and so boring that I cried. I've learned various important things from that job. First, I know I'm very lucky to have a job now that I truly love. I also learned that it's crazy to pay bankers millions while paying **minimum wage** to people at gravel companies. It's terrible work and no one should have to do it. Anyone who says differently should be forced to work at that gravel company for a year.



E Adele Parks, author

When I was 16, I worked in our local supermarket, stacking shelves for two years. In a job like that you make the decision whether this is what you want to do for the rest of your life. I was doing my A-levels, and the other guys and girls were really quite pleased for me, as they were living through my experiences. I am good at talking and telling stories, and I think I learnt it there, because one of the things about stacking shelves or being at **the checkout** is that you get to pass the time with people. That's what I liked best.



* Very small stones often used on paths or roads

Adapted from www.thetimes.co.uk