

## UPPER INTERMEDIATE UNIT 5



- 1** Work in pairs. Look at the photo and discuss.
- 1 What can you see in the photo? Is it a positive or negative image?
  - 2 What does the photo say about how we communicate these days?
  - 3 Would you say that the mobile phone is a great invention or a terrible one?

- 2** Read the article about mobile phones and complete the table.

	For/ Against mobile phones?	Job/Role	How his/her job/role affects his/her attitude to mobile phones
Chris			
Nancy			
Paul			
Valerie			

## The Mobile – Love it or Hate it

Nowadays, the first thing people reach for when they wake up in the morning is their mobile phone. Is this dependence on the mobile good or bad for us? We asked four people what impact mobiles have had on their lives.

### Chris

Mobile phones are a key part of our daily lives. They have revolutionised the way we communicate but, I think, for the worse. As an innovation they are amazing, but the downside is that we depend on them too much. It's almost as if we can't live without them. I work as a waiter in a restaurant. It's disturbing to see couples not looking at each other or even talking to one another over dinner because they are so absorbed in their phones. That's really sad. Phones are fine if you use them when you need to, but some people just can't turn them off for a moment!

### Nancy

I'm an English teacher. Public opinion is against mobile use in education so they don't have a very good reputation and our department has banned them from class. But I don't really understand this. I think mobiles can have a really positive impact. If students used their mobiles correctly, they could be useful for so many activities. For example, you could ask them to find photos on their phones, share them with their classmates and discuss. There's a growing belief among my colleagues that this is the way forward, but we still have a lot of work to do.

### Paul

It's clear that mobile phones have transformed the way we live our lives. I am retired and quite new to them still. When I got my first smartphone, I had quite low expectations. But I can't believe how versatile it is. I don't think about using it to make calls anymore, but everything else – find directions, listen to music, read the paper, take photos, make videos – you see I've got plenty of time to do everything now! They are so popular because we invest so much of ourselves in them. If we lose our phones, we lose part of ourselves.

### Valerie

I think mobiles are a terrible invention. I wish nobody had had that bright idea! I am a businesswoman and my problem with them is that people can always reach you. It creates so much stress. People send you an email and expect an immediate response. They text and if you don't reply, they get angry. They send social media updates and if you don't 'like' them within an hour, they get angry. I am so relieved when I get on a plane or go to the cinema and have to turn it off! My ideal holiday is a place with no internet coverage!

**3** Read the article again. Match the people 1–4 with their opinions a)–h).

- 1 Chris    \_\_, \_\_  
2 Nancy    \_\_, \_\_  
3 Paul    \_\_, \_\_  
4 Valerie    \_\_, \_\_

- a) Mobiles put you under pressure.  
b) Mobiles get in the way of communication.  
c) Mobiles have an unjustifiably bad name.  
d) Mobiles are fine in moderation.  
e) Mobiles can be useful in work contexts.  
f) Mobiles contain information which is deeply personal.  
g) Mobiles are better switched off.  
h) Mobiles are incredibly flexible.

**4** The collocations in the box are from the article. Complete the sentences with the correct collocations.

key part   public opinion   positive impact  
growing belief   low expectations  
immediate response   social media updates  
internet coverage

- 1 Mobile phones can have a \_\_\_\_\_ in classrooms, but it's important to use them carefully.  
2 I get tired of receiving \_\_\_\_\_ from all my friends, so I've removed Facebook from my phone.  
3 I had \_\_\_\_\_ of smartphones, but when I finally bought one, I ended up loving it!  
4 If the \_\_\_\_\_ is bad, it's better to contact me via text message.  
5 Mobile phones play a \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives today, almost everybody has one.  
6 There is a \_\_\_\_\_ that mobile phones can be useful for educational purposes.  
7 The problem with communicating via a mobile is that people often demand a/an \_\_\_\_\_.  
8 \_\_\_\_\_ is divided on the issue of mobile phones, you either love them or hate them!

**5** Work in pairs or small groups and discuss.

- 1 Which of the opinions do you most agree with? Why?  
2 Would you say that the mobile phone is a good or a bad invention? Why?  
3 Discuss what people used to do before mobiles existed in different contexts. (e.g. use a paper map to find your way)

**6**  **5.1** Listen to four people, Marc, Alice, Will and Stephanie, talking about situations which involve a mobile. What situations do they talk about? Was the phone annoying or useful?

**7** Listen again and underline the correct alternative.

- 1 Marc *doesn't know/knows* exactly how the accident happened.  
2 He says that the whole situation was *very fortunate/difficult to believe*.  
3 Alice says that the interviewer's phone kept ringing *but he didn't answer it/and he answered it*.  
4 She says that she didn't get the job because the man didn't *listen to her/think she was the best candidate*.  
5 Will says it *was/wasn't* his idea to use the phone to find the way.  
6 Afterwards, his friends *just laughed/got really angry* about it.  
7 Stephanie decided to go to a really *faraway/empty* place for her birthday.  
8 She received all her birthday messages *throughout the day/at the end of the day*.

**8A** Match 1–8 with a)–h to make mobile phone collocations from the recording.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 charged    | a) inbox      |
| 2 GPS        | b) mode       |
| 3 voice      | c) connection |
| 4 silent     | d) battery    |
| 5 navigation | e) reception  |
| 6 phone      | f) mail       |
| 7 wifi       | g) system     |
| 8 full       | h) signal     |

**B** Listen and check. How many other collocations using the words above can you think of?

**9** Work in pairs or groups and discuss. Think of a situation where you have found mobile phones particularly useful or annoying. Describe it to your partner/group.