




## Lesson 6. The era of mobile phones

**1.** Work in two groups: pros and cons. One of the groups thinks of the advantages of mobile phones, the other – of their disadvantages.

**2a.**  Listen to the story told by an adult. What was unusual about the mobile phone conversation he heard?



**2b.** Read the sentences from the story. Guess the meaning of the words in bold.



We had one phone in our house. It was not only wired to the wall, it was on the wall and had a very short **cord**.

If you wanted to call someone you stood facing the phone to **dial** the number.

You never knew if one or more neighbours were listening as all they had to do is pick up their receiver to **eavesdrop** on your conversation.

Back then teenage conversations weren't so important. Any adult wanting the line could **interrupt** you.

Unfortunately, there were no other **options** for communicating. There were no personal computers, no internet, no e-mail, no text messaging or chat rooms. That **landline** phone was all we had.

Still trying to **avoid** eavesdropping, I turned sideways trying not to listen to either of them.

You see, I'm old enough to control my behaviour but not old enough to have poor hearing. I **could not help hearing** their conversation.

**2c.** Find the words in bold in ex. 2b which mean

- 1) telephone line which travels through either metal wire or optical fibre, as distinguished from a mobile cellular line, where signals are sent and received via radio waves;
- 2) one thing which can be chosen from a set of possibilities, or the freedom to make a choice;
- 3) to stay away from (someone or something), or prevent (something) from happening or not allow yourself to do (something);
- 4) to stop (a person) from speaking for a short period by something you say or do, or to stop something from happening for a short period;
- 5) covered wire which connects electrical equipment to an electrical supply or other equipment;
- 6) to listen to someone's private conversation without them knowing;
- 7) to operate a telephone or make a telephone call to (someone) by pressing a particular series of numbered buttons, or moving a numbered disc, on the telephone;
- 8) were not able to control or stop something.

**3.**  **Listen to the story again. Decide if the statements below are true or false.**

- A. The man is about 35 years old.
- B. He used to have a mobile when he was a teenager.
- C. They used their phone to invite friends and neighbours to parties.
- D. The man is a polite person.
- E. The girls in line were talking to each other.

**4a.** **Work in pairs. Use the words below (see p. 234) to retell the story. Take turns to connect any two words in the box to make a true sentence based on the story. You can use the same words several times connecting them to new words. The person who is the last to make a sentence is the winner.**

***Model:*** Once he was standing in a line in the local department store.

line, dial, conversation, department store, behind, mobile, email, neighbour, metre, text-messaging, behaviour, teenage, girl, computer, memories, teacher, similar, turn away, number, party, chat room, internet, celebration, polite, cord, conversation, interrupt, eavesdrop, couldn't help, avoid, option, school, in front of, conversation, listen, similar, old enough, important

**4b.**  Write down the story.

cord – cordless; wire – wireless

**5. Work in groups of three. Ask and answer the questions.**

1. Do you have a landline phone at home? 2. How often do you use it? 3. Is your landline phone cordless?

## **Lesson 7. Mobile phones – wolves in sheep's clothing?**

**1. Work in three groups: teenagers, parents, scientists. Prepare to speak about your attitude to mobile phones.**

**2a. Work in the same groups. Read your article, discuss the meaning of the words in bold. Prepare to retell the article to your classmates. What does your article tell you about: the advantages of the mobile phone or its disadvantages?**

### **Article A**

**M**y teenage daughter got a new mobile and I'm totally confused. Emily's new phone plays music and videos. It has games and a navigation system. It connects to the Internet.

I cry out for olden times, when a phone to a teenager meant having his/her own extension in the bedroom. Now things are much more complex, and a parent can't even eavesdrop.