

Gemma is sick of being ignored while Sam is on his phone. They discuss the pros and cons of being constantly connected.

Do the preparation exercise first. Then watch the video and follow the instructions to practise your speaking.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the definitions and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1..... constantly | a. doing many different things at the same time |
| 2..... freedom | b. to decide not to listen or pay attention to something |
| 3..... to ignore something | c. all the time; non-stop |
| 4..... multitasking | d. to be unable to focus because something is taking your attention away |
| 5..... weird | e. the state of not being limited or controlled by anything |
| 6..... to be distracted | f. strange; not normal |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

- Why did Gemma and Sam meet up?
 - to have something to eat
 - for a coffee and a chat
 - to do their homework together
- Why did Gemma get a bit annoyed with Sam?
 - because he was checking Facebook instead of listening to her
 - because he was playing a game instead of listening to her
 - because he was sending a message instead of listening to her
- What did Gemma say was the biggest disadvantage of having a mobile phone?
 - It distracts you from things happening around you in the real world.
 - It's dangerous to use it while doing activities such as driving or crossing the street.
 - You need to recharge it quite often.

4. For Sam, what was one good thing about having a mobile phone?
- You can use it to call for help in an emergency.
 - It allows you to stay in contact with friends while you are doing another activity.
 - You can use it to go online and find information for school work.
5. How long did Gemma plan to leave the phones switched off?
- all day
 - for an hour
 - until they finish their drinks
6. How did Sam feel after switching off his phone?
- frustrated
 - anxious
 - free

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the dialogue with a phrase from the box.

Er ... yeah but sometimes

Yeah, but

You're right in some ways ... but

Yeah, there are a lot of advantages ... but

Yeah ... but in a good way

- Sam: Sorry. I was just sending a message. I was multitasking! I'm with you now.
- Gemma: 1 _____ I don't think you can send messages and talk to someone in real life at the same time! That's my point. The real-life person should come first. Don't you think?
- Sam: 2 _____ you just need to send a quick message. I don't think it's rude. In fact, I think it's rude to ignore messages, actually.
- Gemma: Yeah, I suppose so. 3 _____ for me, the biggest disadvantage of having a mobile phone is that we're constantly being distracted from what's happening in the real world!
- Sam: 4 _____. You can carry on what you're doing, and you can keep up with your friends at the same time.
- Gemma: 5 _____ when you've got one of your best mates sitting right in front of you, maybe it's time to switch off?

3. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the dialogue with a phrase from the box.

Shall we	Let's	come on
maybe it's time to		We've just got to

- Gemma: Yeah, there are a lot of advantages ... but when you've got one of your best mates sitting right in front of you, ¹ _____ switch off?
- Sam: You mean ... actually switching off our phones right now?
- Gemma: ² _____? What do you think?
- Sam: Er, OK. It'll give me something to post on Facebook later.
- Gemma: Yeah, ³ _____! Honestly, we haven't had a good chat in real life for ages.
- Sam: All right – you're absolutely right.
- Gemma: OK! Brilliant. On three then!
- Gemma and Sam: One ... two ... three ... off!
- Sam: Wow! We did it.
- Gemma: That didn't hurt too much!
- Sam: Not yet.
- Gemma: I've got a plan! ⁴ _____ just leave them off until we finish our drinks.
- Sam: Yeah, that might be a good idea.
- Gemma: ⁵ _____ focus on the advantages! It feels so weird knowing no one can contact me.
- Sam: Yeah, it does ... but I like this feeling of freedom. I'm going to keep mine off all day.
- Gemma: Wow. Really? Now that is something to post on Facebook. 'Sam survives a whole day without his phone!'

Discussion

How much do you use your phone when you're with your friends? What do you think are the pros and cons of mobile phones?