

EPISODE 37
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



TELEPHONES

I cannot imagine my life without my **mobile phone** (= a phone I can take with me everywhere). I think mobile phones have a lot of advantages and that is why they are so popular. I don't have to remember **phone numbers** because they are saved in my **cell phone** (= another name for a mobile phone). Modern telephones offer **access to the Internet** (= I can use the Internet when I have them), they can take photos and do many other things I can't even think of. I don't have a **stationary phone** (= a phone you can use only in one place) at home any more. I have never used an **answerphone** (= a special machine which records messages). And do you ever use a **phone box** (= a small building with a telephone inside)? I don't. They can still be seen in the streets, but they don't seem to be very popular nowadays. We need to buy a **phone card** before we use them and who has time to do that? I sometimes use **directory enquiries** (= a special place which you call to get a phone number you don't know), but I never use a **telephone directory** (= a book with phone numbers) because it takes too much time. Well, it seems the only telephone I use is my **mobile** (= another name for a mobile phone) and I don't need anything else.



More contexts for the new words:

- I have a **cordless phone** at home and it is really comfortable.
(= I have a phone without a wire at home)
- **Pagers** are not used very often any more.
(= Machines which allow people to get written messages)



EXERCISE 1

Use the words from the text to complete the sentences. Sometimes you may need two words in one gap.

1. I didn't remember the theatre's number, so I called the to ask for it.
2. The only use I have for the is not to look up numbers, but to stand on when I need to reach somewhere high. This book is so big!
3. I forgot my mobile, but luckily there was a in the street, so I could call my parents.
4. I couldn't use the phone box, because I did not have a, and it did not accept coins.
5. My phone has to the Internet, so I can check my email everywhere.
6. Many people are surprised that I don't remember my own phone It's 601-405... or maybe 605-401... or.... well, I don't know!



EXERCISE 2

Match phrases from the two columns to make questions and then answer them.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. When do you leave | a. in your wallet? |
| 2. When did you last phone | b. your mobile at home? |
| 3. Do you have a phone card | c. friend's phone number? |
| 4. Do you remember your best | d. directory enquiries? |

ENGLISH IN USE



Today we will look at **PASSIVE VOICE**. The name probably sounds strange to you, but the construction is not very difficult. We have two examples of **PASSIVE VOICE** in the text above:

*They **are saved** in my cellphone.*
*Pagers **are not used** any more.*

These are examples of **Present Simple Passive**. As you can see in this construction we need to have two verbs. The first is a proper form of the verb "to be" , *is* or *are*. What is the second one? Look at some more examples and you will know.

*Emails **are written** every day.*
*Tea **is drunk** with milk in Britain.*

write, wrote, **written**
drink, drank, **drunk**

Do you know now which verb form we need?

Yes, the past participle form of the verb. Remember, in **PASSIVE VOICE** we need a form of "to be" and a past participle.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ I Can I speak to Mr Jones, please?

B/ **HOLD THE LINE**, please, I'll check if he's available.

If you ask someone on the phone to **hold the line**, you ask them to wait.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. If you **PICK UP** the phone, you answer it when it starts ringing.

He **picked** the phone **up** and dialled.

2. If you **HANG UP**, you stop using the phone at the end of a conversation.

Gregory **hung up** and sat back in his chair.

'Get lost!' she shouted, and **hung up** on me.



EXERCISE 3

Complete the conversation with words from the idiom/phrasal verbs you're learned.

[ring ring ring]

A: Hello?

B: Oh, Anne, thanks for finally picking (1).....! I've been calling you for hours!

A: What's the matter, Bob?

B: I need your help again. Please don't hang (2)....., it's the last time, I promise.

A: OK, what do you need?

B: Do you have any sugar at home?

A: Hold the (3)....., I'll check. [after some time] Yes, I do. But I'm not going to lend you any. Bye bye!

NEWS



MOBILE-FREE ZONES

More and more people are complaining about the fact that mobile phones are everywhere. It is impossible to relax, to concentrate, or to read a book, because always there is a phone ringing somewhere **nearby**, or there is someone shouting into their cell phone. This is why more and more service providers are introducing mobile-free **zones**. In restaurants, clubs, on the bus or on the train you will see signs saying 'no mobiles please.' When entering these areas, you are required to switch off your mobile completely (no, switching it to 'silent' is not enough) and put it away so that no one can see it. After the initial shock, the customers in such areas are really **appreciating** the peace and quiet.

GLOSSARY

- **nearby** – close
- **zones** – areas
- **to appreciate** – to like sth

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. directory enquiries
2. telephone directory
3. phone box
4. phone card
5. access
6. number

Ex.2

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

Ex.3

1. up
2. up
3. line