

# BBC Learning English

## 6 Minute English

### *Mobile phones*



**Doug:** Hello, I'm Doug Campbell and this is 6 Minute English. Today we're talking about mobile phones. And I'm here with Jackie Dalton – have you got your mobile Jackie?

**Jackie:** Yes, I have Doug – but I've turned it off... for six minutes.

**Doug:** Okay. Well we don't want your phone ringing during the programme. Mobile phones are so popular nowadays. And I have a question for you before we start...okay?

**Jackie:** Okay.

**Doug:** In Britain we call it a mobile phone. In Canada and the United States they call it a different name. Which of these names is not a name for a mobile phone in Canada?

- a) a cell phone
- b) a cellular phone
- c) a c phone

**Jackie:** That's quite tricky. I thought it was going to be easier than that! Definitely a cell phone is a name. Cellular phone sounds a bit odd, but I think you could say it. C phone I've never heard before so I'll go with c phone.

**Doug:** Okay, well we will check your answer later in the programme. Now here's another question - I asked people in the office about mobile phones and I asked: Could you live without your mobile phone?



**Staff**

Nooooo! I couldn't live without my mobile phone. It organises everything I do in work and in my private life.

I could live without my mobile phone because I think it encourages me to make unnecessary phone calls.

**Doug:** For some people a mobile phone is *very* important.

**Jackie:** Yes, that woman said, "I couldn't live without my mobile phone."

**Doug:** Yes, for her it's not just a phone. It organises everything she does in work and in her private life.

**Jackie:** Her private life and that's everything that she does outside of work. Her home life.

**Doug:** Right, so she can't live without her mobile but the man - he didn't think it was important.

**Jackie:** Yes, he thought that he would make more phone calls...because he was carrying a mobile. But maybe he didn't really need to make a phone call.

**Doug:** By the way you'll notice that we say to *make* a phone call. Why do we say that? Why do we *make* a phone call? I don't know – do you Jackie?

**Jackie:** No, I don't know. It's strange, isn't it?

**Doug:** Yes, it's weird.

**Jackie:** Because to make is usually to do with to create or something like that, but we just say to make a phone call.



**Doug:** There's something else about mobile phones. I'm thinking about text messages.

**Jackie:** Yeah and I actually use text messages much more than phoning people.

**Doug:** But this word text – t.e.x.t. - a noun. I will send you a text. But nowadays, it's a verb. I will text you. Text me.

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Okay, let's hear some answers to that question – Could you live without your mobile phone?

### **Staff**

Yes, yes, I could easily live without my mobile phone. Useful to have around- I don't miss it when it's turned off.

I couldn't live without my mobile phone and in fact if I accidentally leave it at home I feel really lost without it and I would go back and get it.

**Doug:** Okay Jackie, first that man - he doesn't care about his mobile.

**Jackie:** Yes, it's useful he says but he doesn't think about it when it's turned off – he doesn't *miss* it.

**Doug:** But when you leave it at home – that's different. The woman said that she would go back if she left hers behind. And I have to say, I probably would as well. What about you Jackie?

**Jackie:** I think if I was leaving home to go to work, I would. But if I was going for a walk or something, I absolutely love leaving it behind because it means I won't be bothered at all.

**Doug:** Actually, I've left mine at home today and I don't like that one bit.



**Doug:** And that woman said she would feel *lost* without her mobile phone.

Most people like to be contactable – they want to know that people can phone them. And when I go out I like to say, “I’m ON my mobile. I’m on my mobile.”

**Jackie:** Now we’ve been talking about texting with your mobile and there’s a whole new language with texting of course.

**Doug:** Yes, you want to write quickly and so you make shorter words. For example, a text message that has the letter u in it. What does that mean Jackie?

**Jackie:** Well, the letter u means you as in y.o.u. – me and you.

**Doug:** Okay, and if I write pls...pls... What does that mean?

**Jackie:** Well that means please – pls – please.

**Doug:** Okay and the number 2 - that’s easy – it means to – t.o. or too – t.o.o. Me too.

The letter r – what does that mean Jackie?

**Jackie:** That means are are - a.r.e. And so the message – Where are you? – becomes – where – then the letter r – then the letter u. Where r u?

**Doug:** Where r u?

Text messages – that’s one use for a mobile phone. Let’s listen again to people talking about their mobiles.

**Jackie:** They are answering the question – Could you live without your mobile?



## **Staff**

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I could live without my mobile phone because I think it encourages me to make unnecessary phone calls.

Yes, yes, I could easily live without my mobile phone. Useful to have around- I don't miss it when it's turned off.

I couldn't live without my mobile phone and in fact if I accidentally leave it at home I feel really lost without it and I would go back and get it.

**Doug:** Before we go, do you have the answer to that question Jackie?  
In Canada we have mobile phones and it's the same name in the United States  
Which of these names is not the name for a mobile phone?  
Is it...

- a) a cell phone
- b) a cellular phone
- c) a c phone

**Jackie:** And I said a c phone.

**Doug:** And you're right.

**Jackie:** Am I?

**Doug:** But it's a good name actually.

**Jackie:** It's nice and quick, isn't it?

**Doug:** Thanks Jackie. That's all for now – goodbye.

**Jackie:** Goodbye.