

Topic: Using the telephone

Let's get started...

Did you use the phone today? Who did you call? What did you talk about? What kind of phone did you use? (Cell phone or landline)

Background:

The telephone is a great way to communicate with other people. You can use the telephone to call your neighbor, or to call your family and friends in your native country! Using the telephone is one of the most common ways to communicate with people in America. In America, many people have cell phones, so they can talk to people on the phone anywhere they want to!



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Talk about the differences between cell phones in your native country and in America:

- How much does it cost to use the phone?
- How do you pay to use the phone?
- How often do people use the phone?
- What is the common greeting on the phone?
- Is the telephone the most common kind of communication?
- Why do people usually use the telephone?



Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

When do you usually use the phone? Who do you usually call?

Do you often call your native country? Is it expensive?

What do you do if you cannot understand someone on the telephone? What can you say to them?

How do you feel about using the telephone?

How do you feel when you are using the telephone?

How do you pay your telephone bill?

What would you do if you didn't have a telephone? How would you communicate with people?

Which kind of communication do you prefer? (For example, using the telephone, speaking in person, writing emails or letters)

Have you ever dialed a wrong number? What happened?

Have you ever left a message on someone's answering machine or voicemail?

Do you listen to messages on your answering machine or voicemail?

Do you have a cell phone? How often do you use it?

What is good telephone etiquette? Is telephone etiquette the same in your native country and in America?

Have you ever used a phone book? What kinds of information can you find in a phone book?

Do people use cell phones in your native country?

Is your name in the telephone book? Why or why not?

Have you ever used a pay phone? Are there many pay phones in your native country?

Which do you prefer using: a cell phone or a landline? Why?

New words and Idioms:

Etiquette, mobile phone, phone book, messages, voicemail, greeting, communication, pay phone, landline