

Keep your English up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Cell



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BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Cell

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Mobile telephones and technology

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Cell’ and other shortened compound nouns

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,
Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and language
Audio script – Available in teacher’s notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1130_uptodate2/page2.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the word 'cell'.

B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking, Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

C

Students do **Vocabulary, Exercise 2** - without dictionaries at first.
Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

D

Students read **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.
They answer the questions 'a' and 'b'.

Students listen again and do **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 4**.

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**
Students read **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 5** and then listen to Section 2 of the talk.
They answer question 'a'.

F

Students try to answer **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6**. They listen again to Section 2 to check/complete their answers.

G

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the audio script and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work focuses on other compound words that are usually shortened – we often use only the first word of the compound word. All of the examples are connected to technology.

The final discussion activity is connected to the topic of the lesson – technology – and not the language point

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

When mobile phone technology came in a few years ago, the term was immediately shortened. Mobile phones became 'mobiles'. 'I've got my mobile.' 'Have you got your mobile on?' But that was in the UK. In the United States, a different term emerged, 'cell phone', short for cellular phone.

Now, cell phone was tricky because some people spelled it as one word and some people spelled it as two. I did a search on Google the other day, and the one-word spelling got eighteen million hits, and the two-word spelling got a hundred and thirty-five million hits. So it seems you can use both spellings at the moment. But either way, people shortened the phrase to 'cell'.

Listening Section 2

And this usage is growing in the UK. Somebody the other day said to me, 'Have you got your cell?' 'Call me on your cell!' 'Sync your cell with your company!' – that's synchronise – synchronise your cell with your company – that's the sort of phrase you get these days. I saw an advertisement, 'Cells have just got coloured!' In other words, mobile phones are now in different colours. It's a new sense of the word 'cell'. So, if somebody invites you to 'use my cell', it doesn't mean that they're asking you to go into their monastery, or indeed, asking you to visit them in prison!

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a. shortened | abbreviated; made less long |
| b. tricky | difficult or hard to do |
| c. Google | an Internet search engine |
| d. hits | the number of times that a search engine finds something on the Internet |
| e. synchronise | to make two things show the same information e.g. to make two watches show the same time |
| f. monastery | the place where monks (very religious Christians) live as a group in simple conditions |

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. The United States of America
- b. ii. cell phone

Exercise 4

- a. True – ‘the term was immediately shortened’
- b. False – it is short for ‘cellular phone’
- c. False – ‘people shortened the phrase to cell’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a.
 - i. work and business – ‘your company’
 - iii. publicity and marketing – ‘advertisement’

Exercise 6

- a. True – ‘this usage is growing in the UK’
- b. False – It was about the colour of the telephones
- c. True – a cell is a simple room in a monastery, or where a prisoner sleeps in a prison

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EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. emerged
- b. a sense of the word
- c. prison

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8

a.

laptop computer
vacuum cleaner
video recorder
television set
X-ray photograph
hi-fi system
microwave oven

b.

- i. The doctor took an **X-ray** of the patient's arm.
- ii. This carpet needs a clean. Haven't you got a **vacuum**.
- iii. Cook the potato in the **microwave**. It'll be quicker.
- iv. I forgot to programme the **video**, so I didn't record that documentary.
- v. I bought my grandmother a CD player as she only had an old **hi-fi**.
- vi. I've bought a **laptop** so that I can work on the train.
- vii. I hope I get a flat screen **television** for Christmas, it'll be great for all the films they show.

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with a partner

- a. How often do you use the telephone? Do you like using it?
- b. Have you got a mobile phone? Have you got a favourite make or model?
- c. Do you use the extra facilities that are often available on mobile phones e.g. a camera?
- d. What are the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a. shortened | to make two things show the same information e.g. to make two watches show the same time |
| b. tricky | the place where monks (very religious Christians) live as a group in simple conditions |
| c. Google | The number of times that a search engine finds something on the Internet |
| d. hits | an Internet search engine |
| e. synchronise | abbreviated; made less long |
| f. monastery | difficult or hard to do |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the word 'bling' in English and answer these questions.

a. Which country does the word 'cell phone' come from?

b. On the Internet, which spelling is more common?

i. cellphone

ii. cell phone

4. Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.

a. The term 'mobile phone' was soon abbreviated.

b. 'Cell phone' is short for 'cellulose phone'.

c. It is not possible to only say 'cell' to mean a mobile phone.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer this question.**
- a.** Professor Crystal talks about two examples of the use of ‘cell’ in the UK. Which topics do they refer to? Choose two from below.
- i. Work and business
 - ii. Social life
 - iii. Publicity and marketing
 - iv. International communication
- 6. Listen again to section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a.** British people are using the word ‘cell’ more frequently.
 - b.** The advertisement concerned a new phone facility.
 - c.** The other older meaning of ‘cell’ that he mentions is ‘a small simple room’.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the verbs/verb phrases in the text that have the following meanings.

- a. appeared
- b. a meaning of a word
- c. a place for criminals

LANGUAGE

8. Do these exercises about compound nouns.

- a. It is common to shorten compound nouns that refer to a piece of technology. Make full compound nouns by matching the words in Box A with the words in Box B.

Box A

laptop vacuum video television X-ray hi-fi microwave

Box B

oven recorder photograph cleaner computer system set

- b. Complete these sentences with the shortened versions of the compound nouns above.
 - i. The doctor took an ___ of the patient's arm.
 - ii. This carpet needs a clean. Haven't you got a _____.
 - iii. Cook the potato in the _____. It'll be quicker.
 - iv. I forgot to programme the ____, so I didn't record that documentary.
 - v. I bought my grandmother a CD player as she only had an old _____.
 - vi. I've bought a ___ so that I can work on the train.
 - vii. I hope I get a flat screen _____ for Christmas, it'll be great for all the films they show.

DISCUSSION

9. **Put these items of technology in order of importance to you and your life.
Compare your order with a partner and explain your decisions.**

- a. mobile phone
- b. computer
- c. fridge
- d. car
- e. watch
- f. microwave
- g. camera
- h. CD player
- i. television
- j. radio