



## TEXT

### LIVING THE WIRELESS LIFESTYLE

Chika Matsumoto rarely puts her cell phone down, even when she's hanging out with friends at a hamburger shop or soaking in the bathtub. The seventeen-year-old high-school student is constantly sending text messages to her friends. "I want to be aware of what's going on with my friends and not to be left out," she says. Her mother wonders: is this an addiction? It seems to her that teenagers can no longer relate to one another except through their phones.

Getting a phone call or a text message implies an importance – it boosts the receiver's self-esteem and self-worth. But the average conversation lasts two-and-a-half to three minutes. Surely many could be postponed or forgotten. How valuable is all this chitchat? What's more, the cell-phone craze has moved from an emphasis on voice to one on data. People so devoted to staying interconnected are kept in a perpetual state of anxiety, because they may have missed some significant memo, bit of news or gossip. Teenagers used to get together and move around. These days they are immobile and, while they are texting, they are both stimulated and tense. Perhaps the worst effect of this mobile frenzy for youngsters is the fact that they are missing out on natural, real communication and not learning how to socialise normally. After all, 55 per cent of communication is body language and they can't get that in a text message.

## QUESTIONS

1. Read the text and, according to it, answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (3 as a whole).

- How does Chika's mother feel about her daughter using a cell phone?
- What makes cell phones so attractive to people?
- Why is the use of cell phones considered unhealthy for young people?

2. Transform or complete the following sentences according to the instructions. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (2 as a whole).

- Transform into reported speech: "I want to be aware of what's going on with my friends." Begin: Chika Matsumoto said that ...
- Complete: I would get a mobile phone if ...
- Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer: *The average conversation lasts a couple of minutes.*
- Rewrite the sentences inserting the appropriate form of the verb in brackets:  
*About thirty years ago people \_\_\_\_\_ (be) fascinated by television. People nowadays \_\_\_\_\_ (be) much more interested in computers.*

3. Find a synonym in the text for each of the words below. 0 to 0.25 each answer (1 as a whole).

- a) conscious                      b) excluded                      c) increases                      d) ordinary

4. Write about one of the following topics, between 80-120 words (0-4 marks).

- How useful is technology in your daily life?
- How do you spend your free time with your friends?