

WRITING Technology – good or bad?

1 Brainstorm arguments *for* and *against* mobile phones.

Read Study Skill

| for | against |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Can make a call at any time, anywhere. | Annoying in a public place e.g. in a restaurant. |

2 Read the essay. Did you have the same ideas?

Mobile phones

A Mobile phones are now part of our everyday lives. Most people find them essential and could not manage without them. However, there are also some drawbacks to owning and using a mobile phone.

B There are three main advantages to having mobile phones. Firstly, there is the convenience of being able to make or receive a phone call at any time and in any place. Secondly, they are essential for keeping in touch with family and friends. Parents worried about their children can always ring them to check they are safe, and children can let their family know if they are going to be late home. Finally, mobile phones can save lives. For example, if there is an accident, help can be called immediately, wherever the accident takes place.

C On the other hand, there are significant problems with the use of mobile phones. In the first place, using mobile phones can cause accidents, for instance, when people are driving and using their phone at the same time. In addition, the loud use of mobile phones in public places such as restaurants and cinemas is rude and can be very irritating for other people. Lastly, there has been an increase in street crime directly related to mobile phones. People have been attacked and their phones stolen from them.

D In conclusion, I believe that, despite the disadvantages, mobile phones are essential to modern life and that the advantages to owning one are far greater than the disadvantages.



3 Consider the purpose of each paragraph. Which paragraph A, B, C, or D... ?

- says why mobile phone use can be a good thing.
- introduces the subject.
- concludes and gives the writer's opinion.
- says why mobile phone use can be a bad thing.

4 **Read Study Skill** Go back through the essay. Underline 12 more linking words and phrases. Write them in the table.

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------|-------|
| sequence | firstly | _____ | _____ |
| contrast | in spite of | _____ | _____ |
| examples | e.g. | _____ | _____ |
| endings | to conclude | _____ | _____ |

STUDY SKILL Organizing ideas (1)

When writing an essay where you have to give two sides of an argument:

- organize your ideas into arguments *for* and arguments *against*, and give some examples.
- write a paragraph *for*, and a paragraph *against*, giving your ideas in a logical order.
- write an introduction and a conclusion. Give your *personal opinion* in the conclusion.

STUDY SKILL Linking ideas (2)

To help the reader understand your writing and follow your ideas, link short, simple ideas. Use:

- *firstly, secondly, ...*
for more than one argument or idea
- *however* (see Study Skill p13), *on the other hand, despite ...*
for a contrast between two ideas
- *for instance, for example, ...*
for an example to illustrate an idea
- *in conclusion, to sum up, ...*
for the final comment

- 5 Read the essay title. Do you agree or disagree with it?
Discuss with a partner.

Access to satellite and Internet television does more harm than good.



- 6 Divide arguments 1–6 into those that support the essay title (*against* satellite /Internet TV), and those that disagree with it (*for* satellite/Internet TV). Add one more argument to each list.

- 1 People (especially children) have access to programmes with unsuitable content.
- 2 It gives people access to programmes around the world – the opportunity to learn about other cultures.
- 3 A huge choice of programmes is available – something for every interest, for example sport, music, film, documentary channels.
- 4 More access to TV encourages people (especially children) to watch more TV, so there is less time for hobbies or family.
- 5 Programmes in other languages, for example English, can support language learning.
- 6 The programmes available may not be culturally appropriate.

| for satellite TV | against satellite TV |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <i>The programmes available may not be culturally appropriate.</i> |

2 arguments

Writing a discursive essay

- 7 Complete the essay using the arguments from exercise 6. Link ideas with words and phrases from exercise 4. Follow the organization in the box. Write about 200 words.

Title Access to satellite and Internet television does more harm than good.

Introduction

Many people have strong feelings about the value of television, especially now that programmes are available through satellite and over the Internet. There are those who suggest that increased access to these programmes does more harm than good. However, there are those who insist that it is a good thing.

Paragraph 2 satellite and Internet TV does harm + examples

Paragraph 3 satellite and Internet TV is good + examples

Paragraph 4 conclusion and your opinion