

# 8

UNIT

## Communication at your fingertips

### Set the scene

A long time ago, people communicated without the Internet. Even longer ago, people communicated without phones, faxes and had to speak face to face or put pen to paper. However, with the speedy development of technology, we have entered the great information age, also known as the computer age or digital age, where individuals can transfer and communicate information freely, and have instant access to information that would have been difficult or impossible to find in the past. While some people find new forms of communication to be highly beneficial, others don't feel comfortable using them. Differing attitudes aside, we need to learn to reap the benefits of the digital age while minimizing the distraction, alienation, etc. brought about by it.

### Learning objectives

**Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:**

- talk about various aspects of digital communication and its impact on modern life;
- use an anecdote to illustrate your point in an argumentative essay;
- develop an in-depth understanding of different opinions regarding digital communication and make your own evaluation of these opinions.



The gentleman makes things his servants;  
the petty man is servant to things.

— Xunzi



**Reading 1**

**Is social media the enemy? P187**

**Reading 2**

**Why I am not going to buy a cellphone P197**

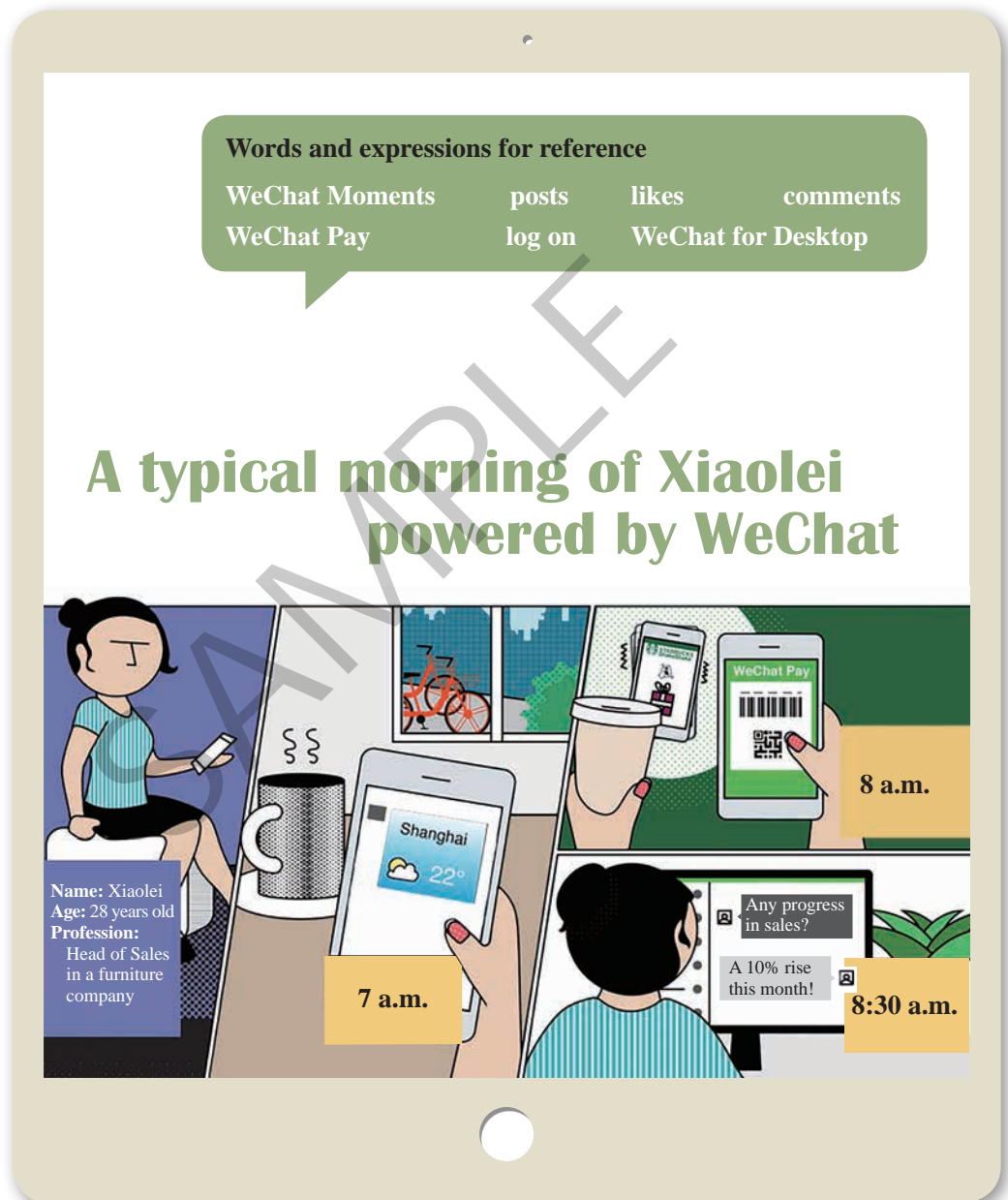
**Unit project**

**Suggestions for a social media app designed specifically for college students P203**

Get ready to read

Picture description

The pictures illustrate Xiaolei — an office lady’s typical morning. Look at the pictures carefully and describe her activities at 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and 8:30 a.m.



A day in my life powered by social media

Do social media apps such as WeChat play an important role in your life, too? Work in groups and discuss how a typical day of yours involves the use of WeChat or other social media apps.

# IS SOCIAL MEDIA THE ENEMY?



- 1 Two events today, although worlds apart, seem closely tied together. And the bond between them is as human as it is electronic.
- 2 First, on my way to the coffee shop, I got a message from my 10-year-old son, just saying good morning and letting me know he was going to a birthday party today. I don't get to see him all the time. He's growing up in two houses, as I did.<sup>1</sup> But recently, I handed down my old iPhone to him so we could communicate with each other when we're apart.
- 3 The amount of calming satisfaction it gives me to be able to communicate with my son through technology is **undeniable** and human. It's the other side of the "I don't care what you ate for breakfast this morning" argument against the **mundane** broadcasting of social media. In this case, I absolutely care about this. I'd listen to him describe a piece of **bacon** and hang on every word. Is it better than a conversation with "real words"? No. But is it better than waiting two more days, when the mundane moment that I long to hear about so much is gone? Definitely yes.
- 4 Moments later, I sat down and opened the paper. A piece of news immediately caught my attention: In China, social media has been used to find lost kids. I'm reading about the tears of the family, the **rapt** attention of the town and country, and I'm again **marveling** at the human side of the Internet.

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## Notes

- 1 This sentence implies that the author and his wife were separated or divorced, and the couple were probably awarded joint custody (监护权) of their son. Hence, the boy was living in two houses. The author himself also grew up this way.
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- 5 I recently asked the question to my friends: “Are social media apps making you feel closer to people or farther away?” It sparked<sup>2</sup> a lot of responses and seemed to touch one of our generation’s **exposed nerves**. What is the effect of the Internet and social media on our **humanity**?
- 6 From the outside view, digital **interactions** appear to be cold and **inhuman**. The theme of the responses to my questions seemed to be summed up by my friend Jason, who wrote, “Closer to people I’m far away from.” Then, a minute later, he wrote, “But maybe farther from the people I’m close enough to.” And then he added, “I just got confused.”
- 7 It is **confusing**. We live in this paradox now, where two **seemingly conflicting** realities exist side by side. Social media simultaneously draws us nearer and distances us. But I think very often, we **lament** what we miss and forget to admire what we’ve become. And it is human nature to reject the machine the moment we feel it becoming **ubiquitous**. We have seen it with the printing press, moving pictures, television, video games, just about any other **advanced** technology that **captures** our attention. What romantic rituals of relationship and social interaction will die in the process? Our hearts want to know.

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#### Notes

- 2 When “spark” is used with such nouns as “interest,” “hope,” “curiosity,” etc., it means “make sb. feel interested, hopeful, curious, etc.”  
e.g. *The organizers are hoping to spark some interest in young people.*
- 




- 8 In *The New Yorker* this week, there's an article "How the Internet Gets Inside Us." The author breaks down a large number of new books on the subject and **categorizes** them all into the **viewpoints**: "the Never-Betters, the Better-Nevers, and the Ever-Wasers."<sup>3</sup> In short, there are three groups of people who see the current movement as good, bad, or normal. But ultimately, the last group is the one best **equipped** to handle it all.
- 9 Another **observation** from the coffee shop: Sitting not far from me, five people are looking at screens, and four people are reading something on paper. And I'm doing both. The **dynamics** in this coffee shop is quite a bit more **revealing** than any article or book. Think about the **dynamic** relationships between physical and digital. People aren't giving up long-form reading, considered thinking, or social interaction. They are just filling all the space between. And even that is not entirely true as I watch the **occasional** stare out the window or long glance around the room.
- 10 The way people engage with the Internet and social media isn't like any kind of interaction we've ever seen before. It's like an **intertwining** sine wave<sup>4</sup> that touches in and out **continuously**.
- 11 The Internet doesn't steal our humanity; it reflects it. The Internet doesn't get inside us; it shows what's inside us. And social media isn't cold; it's just complex and hard to define. The machine does not control us. It is a tool. Looking through this **lens**, perhaps we should **re-frame** our discussions about technology from how it is changing us to how we are using it.

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### Notes

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- 3 In that article, the author, Adam Gopnik, defines the "Never-Betters" as those people that hold humans are on the brink of a new utopia, where information will be free and democratic. The "Better-Nevers" are defined as those that think humans would have been better off if the whole thing, i.e., the Internet, had never happened. The "Ever-Wasers" insist that at any moment in modernity something like the Internet is going on, and that a new way of organizing data and connecting users is always thrilling to some and chilling to others — that something like this is going on is exactly what makes it a modern moment.
- 4 A sine wave or sinusoidal wave ( 正弦曲线  ) is a mathematical curve that describes a smooth periodic oscillation ( 摆动 ). A sine wave is a continuous wave.
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## Read and understand

### Global understanding

Read the passage and complete the summary with information from the passage.

As social media becomes increasingly popular, it has 1) \_\_\_\_\_ different responses from people. While some are optimistic or regard it 2) \_\_\_\_\_, others have become concerned about how it affects relationships and social 3) \_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, many are also uncertain whether social media draws people closer or 4) \_\_\_\_\_ them. As for the author, he is grateful that devices such as smartphones help him communicate with his son when they are 5) \_\_\_\_\_ and is happy that the Internet can help people in trouble. Moreover, based on his observation, he finds that the way people 6) \_\_\_\_\_ with the Internet and social media is both 7) \_\_\_\_\_ and complex. Viewing social media as a tool, he suggests people pay more attention to how they use it rather than how they are 8) \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

### Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and choose the best way to complete the unfinished statements.

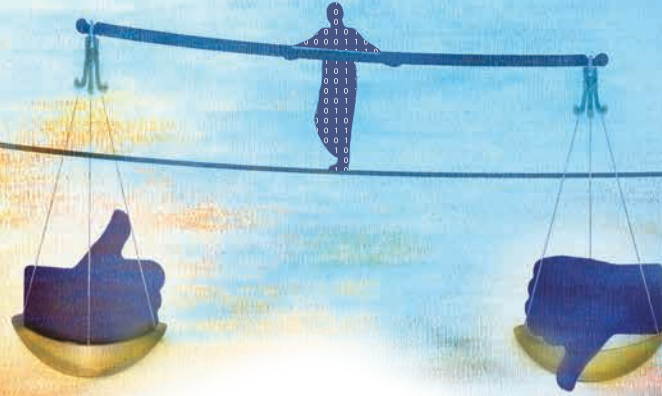
- Some people are opposed to the mundane postings on social media because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - they often find the content offensive
  - they are not interested in others' lives
  - they consider it an invasion of privacy
  - they prefer a conversation with "real words"
- The question the author posed to his friends (Para. 5) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - could be answered quite easily
  - hit a raw nerve in many people
  - triggered a storm of public debate
  - touched upon people's fear of change

3. People worry about losing \_\_\_\_\_ in the age of social media.
  - A. their chance to find romantic love
  - B. their ability to make sound judgments
  - C. some romantic rituals of relationship
  - D. some old but important social skills
4. The article in *The New Yorker* (Para. 8) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. compares different lifestyles in the digital age
  - B. reviews some new books on the effects of the Internet
  - C. criticizes all three schools of thought regarding the Internet
  - D. examines how much people dislike using the Internet
5. The author's observation of the dynamics in the coffee shop convinced him that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. social media had negative effects on concentration
  - B. many had stopped considered thinking
  - C. people enjoyed observing their surroundings
  - D. social media was just part of people's lives
6. At the end of the passage, the author suggests \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. people hold more discussions about social media
  - B. people try harder to define social media
  - C. people have more faith in their humanity
  - D. people think more about how they use technology

SAMPLE







## Read and think

### Evidence of the argument

**Step 1** In the passage, the author puts forward five sub-arguments to prove that social media is not the enemy of humanity. Match each sub-argument with the specific piece of evidence that supports it.

1. People have always worried about what they could lose due to new technology.

**A** The author’s observation of people in the coffee shop

2. Complexity is an important feature of human interaction with the Internet.

**B** Objections to inventions such as printing press and television

3. Social media helps shorten the distance between those far from each other.

**C** The newspaper report about lost kids

4. Social media is often used to fill in the periods between activities such as reading.

**D** Jason’s responses to the author’s question

5. Social media can be used to help those who are in need.

**E** The author’s communication with his son

**Step 2** Do you find the above evidence convincing? Why or why not? If you were to provide evidence for these arguments, what would you use?

### Your attitude toward technology

**Step 1** In the passage, the author quotes an article in *The New Yorker*, which classifies viewpoints on new technology as “the Never-Betters, the Better-Nevers, and the Ever-Wasers.” Work in pairs and tell each other which type of viewpoint you hold.

**Step 2** In the passage, the author claims that the “Ever-Wasers” are “the one best equipped to handle it all.” Do you agree with his viewpoint? Share your opinion with your partner and offer specific reasons to justify your belief.

## Read and practice

### Synonyms

Replace the italicized words in the sentences with words from the passage.

1. Elderly people often feel *lost* in today's world of electronic communication.
2. My morning *routine* includes reading the newspaper while I drink my coffee.
3. Some believe that, *eventually*, social media will replace face-to-face communication.
4. Teachers *complained* that students wasted too much of their in-class time checking social media.
5. Thanks to technology, space can no longer keep loved ones *separated* like before.
6. There are online tools that help simplify the *complicated* medical language for patients.

### Word building

Complete the sentences with the proper form of the words given.

1. So far my laptop has been working fine except for \_\_\_\_\_ disconnection from Wi-Fi. (occasion)
2. Some new tools help users \_\_\_\_\_ post content on multiple social media sites. (simultaneous)
3. Social media postings offered some \_\_\_\_\_ insights into this social problem. (reveal)
4. I've recently made a quite interesting \_\_\_\_\_ about people's use of cellphones. (observe)
5. There are \_\_\_\_\_ views on the effects smartphones have on study. (conflict)
6. The lack of cyber security left many phone users' data in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ position. (expose)
7. There are \_\_\_\_\_ reasons why communication is important in a marriage. (deny)
8. I have never had the feeling that digital interactions are \_\_\_\_\_ and cruel. (human)

### Collocations

Correct the mistakes in the collocations in the sentences.

1. Some social media apps can help strengthen the bond with people.
2. The question on social media addiction can be broken up into two parts.
3. I checked the emails, made several phone calls, wrote my paper on the computer — for short, it was a very busy night.
4. I have been wondering if I should hand in my old cellphone to my daughter.
5. She used to hang on to every word of his text messages.
6. Reading all those arguments for social media, he decided not to buy his son a cellphone.

## Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

apps	audience	beneficial	bond	devices
dynamic	ignore	intend	interaction	obsessed
revealing	tend	ubiquitous	undeniable	viewer

The cellphone has completely changed the way we communicate. It's changed almost everything about us: The way we engage with one another, the way we market brands and ourselves, etc. To all of us it seems like social media apps have been 1) \_\_\_\_\_ for quite some time. We've become so 2) \_\_\_\_\_ with this new and advanced technology that we've pretty much forgotten how to communicate with each other face to face. This is a(n) 3) \_\_\_\_\_ fact in the world today that we simply cannot 4) \_\_\_\_\_.

I've been taking some steps to keep face-to-face communication 5) \_\_\_\_\_ for myself. I urge you to do the same. This will be 6) \_\_\_\_\_ for more than one reason. You will be able to speak your mind a lot easier, feel more comfortable in front of a(n) 7) \_\_\_\_\_, and express your feelings in a better way than through texts. The best way to create the 8) \_\_\_\_\_ between people is through face-to-face 9) \_\_\_\_\_. Verbal instead of written. Feeling someone else's emotions is nothing like reading about them on a cellphone. When you speak your mind out loud, more people 10) \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to and remember you.

## Read and translate

Translate the sentences into English.

1. 我正试图对中国用户常用的社交类手机应用进行分类和研究，想借此发现一些中国用户的网络社交习惯。(categorize)
2. 一些中国老人抱怨手机按键太小，不便使用，专门为他们这个群体开发的手机太少了。(lament)
3. 为什么不请教一下他呢？他的专业是信息科学，因此他最有资格来处理这个问题。(equip)
4. 这些无处不在的网络流行语其实很有启示性。它们反映了中国网民充满活力、丰富多彩的网络生活。(ubiquitous, revealing, dynamic)
5. 越来越多的中国电视台转向通过社交媒体与观众建立密切关系。(engage with)
6. 中国大学生渴望通过网络传播积极文明的生活方式，建设更为健康的网络文化。(long to)

## Read and write

### Use anecdotes to illustrate your point

In argumentative writing, in order to make ideas more convincing, writers sometimes use an anecdote, i.e., a short story based on their personal experience. Effective anecdotes are brief, descriptive, and relevant:

- The anecdotes you choose to share in an argumentative essay should be fairly short in order to keep your readers' attention. Short stories also ensure that you still have space to thoroughly address a topic. To stay brief, remember that it's unnecessary to tell a story from beginning to end. Instead, focus on the most important event while providing just enough context for it to make sense to your readers.
- When including anecdotes, you should also use descriptive writing. You want your readers to be able to use the detail in your essay to paint an image in their mind.
- Be sure that the anecdote you choose to include in your essay is relevant. While the story you describe might be funny or interesting, if it does not address the topic or further the point you are making, it will only be considered a distraction.

**Step 1** In Paragraphs 2 and 3, the author uses an experience of his own to illustrate how social media benefits people who are apart. Now read these two paragraphs again and analyze the effectiveness of this anecdote in terms of whether it is brief, descriptive, and relevant. Share your view with a partner.

**Step 2** In the passage, the author argues that people are worried that some romantic rituals of relationship and social interaction might die in the age of social media. Personally, do you think letter-writing is going to disappear in the age of social media? What anecdote(s) would you use to back up your point of view? Brainstorm in groups and evaluate your ideas according to the principle of being relevant.

**Step 3** Write an essay of no less than 80 words on the topic "Will letter-writing disappear in the age of social media?" Include in your essay an anecdote that you have discussed, or come up with a new one, to illustrate your point. Bear in mind the principles of being brief and descriptive.

Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

- Uber** *v.* 用优步打车  
*n.* 优步 (打车软件)
- landline** *n.* 有线电话
- sophisticated** *a.* 复杂的
- privilege** *n.* 特权

Watch for information

Watch a video clip and find out how living without a cellphone for a whole week is like for a group of four young people. Pay attention to the difficulties or troubles not having a cellphone caused them and the things they learned from this experience, and complete the table with information from the video clip.



FOUR PEOPLE TRY LIVING WITHOUT A CELLPHONE FOR A WEEK

	Troubles caused by not having a phone	Things learned from the experience
<b>Girl 1</b>	She had nothing to keep her 1) _____ without a phone at a party.	She learned to 5) _____ the privilege that comes with having a cellphone.
<b>Guy 1</b>	When he made a wrong turn, he had to use a tiny 2) _____ to figure out how to correct it.	His 6) _____ became more sophisticated.
<b>Girl 2</b>	She couldn't use an 3) _____ without her phone.	The experience made her 7) _____ the world again.
<b>Guy 2</b>	He had to ask for favors to use a 4) _____.	He was a lot more 8) _____ with his time.

Watch and discuss

Have you ever tried living without your cellphone for an extended period of time, like one day or even longer? If yes, what is that experience like? If no, can you imagine the biggest inconvenience not having a cellphone would cause? Share your experience or opinion with a partner.

# Why I am not going to buy a cellphone



- 1 It is perhaps **rebellious** and a little **old-fashioned** when someone insists on using their **flip phone** and refuses a smartphone. Refusing both kinds of phones is viewed as totally **insane**, especially if the person refusing was born after the 1980s. But I've never had a cellphone and I'm not going to get one. I have several reasons, and they are good ones.
- 2 The first is cost. No cellphone means no **monthly bill**, no **possibility** of an **upgrade**, no taxes, and no **roaming charges**. The second is concern for the environment. The manufacture of mobile phones, the power they consume, and the energy used to **transmit** calls and access the Internet all produce significant CO<sub>2</sub> **emissions**. The idea that cellphones are good only for a couple of years is widespread, increasing the number of phones that end up in **landfills** and let out **toxic** heavy metals into the soil and water.
- 3 The **decisive** reason, however, for me to refuse a cellphone is the opposite of everyone else's reason for having one: I do not want the ability to communicate with anyone **anytime** and anywhere. Cellphones put their users constantly on call, constantly available, and as much as<sup>1</sup> that can be **liberating** or convenient, it can also be an **overwhelming burden**. The burden comes in the form of feeling an obligation to individuals and events that are physically elsewhere. Anyone who has checked their phone during a face-to-face conversation understands the **temptation** to respond immediately. And anyone who has been talking to someone who has checked their phone understands the problem it causes.
- 4 Communicating with someone who is not physically present also forces the mind to separate from the body. We see this, for example, in the well-known and ubiquitous dangers of texting<sup>2</sup> while driving, but also in more mundane experiences: friends or lovers ignoring each other's **presence** in favor of their Facebook feeds<sup>3</sup>; people

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## Notes

- 1 Here the expression "(as) much as" is used to express a contrast between one clause and another, meaning "even though; although." The sentence means: Although the ability to communicate with anyone anytime and anywhere can be liberating or convenient, it can also be an overwhelming burden.
  - 2 Here "text" is used as a verb, meaning "send sb. a written message on a mobile phone."  
*e.g. Kids seem to prefer texting non-stop these days.*
  - 3 Here "feed" is used as a noun, meaning "a special feature on a blog, news website, social networking website, etc. that allows you to see new information without having to visit the website."
-

broadcasting their entertainment, their meals, and their passing<sup>4</sup> thoughts to all who will bear **witness**; parents capturing their daughter's ballet performance on their phones rather than watching it live.

- 5 The **intrusive** effects of cellphones have significant implications for our relationships with the self and with others. Truly knowing and understanding others requires **patience**, risk, **empathy**, and **affection**, all of which are made impossible by cellphones. Cellphones also interfere with **contemplation**, the activity which I think is **essential** for living a good life. Avoiding a cellphone allows, for me, space to think and so enables a richer, more **fulfilling** way of life. With fewer tasks to perform and preferences to satisfy, life slows to a pace **compatible** with contemplation and **gratitude**.
- 6 A cellphone-free<sup>5</sup> life not only helps to liberate the mind, but also the body. The ancient **Greek** philosopher Anaxagoras believes that “It is by having hands that man is the most intelligent of animals.” We can be pretty sure that Anaxagoras was not **anticipating** the invention of smartphones. **On the contrary**, refusing a cellphone enables one to use one's hands to carry out **meaningful** activities (playing the piano, or reading a book) in such a way that one is fully **absorbed** in those activities, so that they reach their height of meaning.
- 7 Of course, it's true that cellphones can be used responsibly. We can shut them off or simply ignore the incoming text. But this takes extraordinary **willpower**. According to a recent Pew survey, 82 percent of Americans believe that cellphone use in social situations more often hurts than helps conversation, yet 89 percent of cellphone **owners** still use their phones in those situations. Refusing a cellphone **guarantees** that I won't use it when I shouldn't.
- 8 The original meaning of “connect” indicated a physical relationship — a **binding** or **fastening** together. But now we apply this word to our cellphone communication. Yet the “connections” are **unreal**; our words and thoughts reach the upper regions of space next to the cell tower while our devices **disconnect** us from those with whom we share space. Even though we have two hands, I'm **convinced** that you can't hold a cellphone and someone else's hand at the same time.

## Notes

- 4 Here “passing” is used to modify a thought that is short and not very serious. “Passing” can also be used to modify a feeling, interest, etc.
- 5 “-free” is a suffix used in adjectives and adverbs, meaning “without sth. that you do not want.”



# Read and understand

## Global understanding

Read the passage and complete the outline with information from the passage.

**Introduction**  
I am not going to buy a cellphone.

**Reason 1: Cost**

**Reason 2: Concern for the 1) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Reason 3:**  
Do not want the ability to communicate with anyone  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ and 3) \_\_\_\_\_

- It could be a(n) 4) \_\_\_\_\_.
- It forces the 5) \_\_\_\_\_ to separate from the 6) \_\_\_\_\_.
- It has impacts on our 7) \_\_\_\_\_ with the self and with others.
- It occupies our mind and body so that we cannot do 8) \_\_\_\_\_ activities and live a richer and more 9) \_\_\_\_\_ life.

**Counter-argument**  
Cellphones can be used  
10) \_\_\_\_\_,  
but most of us lack the  
11) \_\_\_\_\_ to do so.

**Conclusion**  
Cellphone communication cannot result in real  
12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- \_\_\_ 1. The author believes that people born after the 1980s can understand his decision of not using a phone.
- \_\_\_ 2. Parents nowadays are so absorbed in their kids' live performance that they forget to record it on their phones.
- \_\_\_ 3. The author believes that cellphones make people lose their patience and empathy.
- \_\_\_ 4. According to the author, a slow life pace and contemplation go together.
- \_\_\_ 5. The Greek philosopher Anaxagoras held that using hands contributed greatly to human intelligence.
- \_\_\_ 6. Undivided attention is a must for activities such as reading to be meaningful.
- \_\_\_ 7. The majority of Americans believe cellphones help move conversations along.
- \_\_\_ 8. The original meaning of "connect" was to join physical items together.



## Read and think

### Identify evidential support

An argumentative essay requires well-researched, accurate, detailed, and current information to support its thesis statement. Read the passage and decide whether the following types of evidence are provided by the author. Check (✓) those chosen and then find specific examples from the passage to illustrate them.

- A. quotations \_\_\_\_\_
- B. anecdotes \_\_\_\_\_
- C. statistical evidence \_\_\_\_\_
- D. facts or observations \_\_\_\_\_
- E. expert opinions \_\_\_\_\_

### Evaluate opposing viewpoints

**Step 1** In Passage A, different viewpoints on new technology were labeled as “the Never-Betters, the Better-Nevers, and the Ever-Wasers.” Which of these labels would you use to describe the author of Passage B? Why?

**Step 2** The two passages in this unit present two opposing views regarding cellphones and social media. Which of these two viewpoints do you agree with more? Discuss in groups and give specific reasons or examples to illustrate your point.



## Read and practice

### Meaning in context

Choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D to complete the sentences.

- The production of electronic devices such as cellphones may generate toxic \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. transmissions      B. admissions      C. emissions      D. commissions
- This will be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ step in strengthening network security.  
A. exclusive      B. decisive      C. intrusive      D. respective
- Helen chose a cheap cellphone plan to reduce her financial \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. load      B. obligation      C. worry      D. burden
- The number of amazing smartphones available at the moment is a massive \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul.  
A. contemplation      B. temptation      C. anticipation      D. affection
- The constant ringing of her cellphone \_\_\_\_\_ with her study.  
A. interfered      B. interrupted      C. disturbed      D. bothered
- Good cellphone habits are \_\_\_\_\_ for high productivity at study.  
A. compatible      B. essential      C. effective      D. influential
- In his opinion, nursing is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ careers.  
A. touching      B. fulfilling      C. moving      D. pleasing
- Deleting some gaming apps \_\_\_\_\_ that I will not waste my time playing.  
A. guarantees      B. convinces      C. anticipates      D. promises

### Word building

Complete the sentences with antonyms of the words in brackets.

- All these useless pre-installed apps are driving me \_\_\_\_\_ (sane).
- This new type of cellphone is environmentally friendly as it is made mostly of \_\_\_\_\_ (toxic) materials.
- I didn't finish the video conference because my phone got \_\_\_\_\_ (connected) from the hotel Wi-Fi.
- I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ (fasten) my coat because I was holding two phones in my hand.
- Quite a few new apps are \_\_\_\_\_ (compatible) with my phone. I probably need to get a new one.

#### Negative prefixes

Some adjectives and verbs can be transformed into their antonyms by adding negative prefixes like "un," "in," "dis," or "non-." For example, "complete" is changed into its antonym "incomplete," and "do" is changed into its antonym "undo."

## Language in use

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

1. Since he conducted most of his business on his phone, he showed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (对……的极大的担忧) the security of his personal information.
2. Cellphone makers should develop technology that can prevent distracted driving, because they \_\_\_\_\_ (对……负有责任) the safety of their users.
3. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ (支持) banning cellphones in class?
4. The communication satellite is \_\_\_\_\_ (与……分开) its launcher.
5. A new study is being \_\_\_\_\_ (开展) on the effects of extensive use of smartphones on human body.
6. — I suppose your daughter likes her new cellphone.  
— \_\_\_\_\_ (恰恰相反), she prefers the old one.
7. Please \_\_\_\_\_ (关闭你的手机) before the exam starts.
8. China Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ (坚信) its ability to continuously improve customer service.

## Read and translate

Translate the sentences into Chinese.

1. The Chinese government insists on conducting independent research on communications technology.
2. Not many Chinese parents believe that their kids have the willpower to use cellphones moderately.
3. The invention of social media apps such as WeChat has profound implications for the way Chinese people communicate with each other.
4. It is undeniable that some Chinese parents are more absorbed in their smartphones than their kids.
5. This disused telephone booth bore witness to the development of mobile communications in China.
6. Handwritten letters are disappearing because they are no longer compatible with the quickened pace of life.



Additional  
translation skills

## Present a proposal

### Suggestions for a social media app designed specifically for college students

Though it does cause troubles to the users, social media has become indispensable to modern life. Now, suppose a new social media app is being designed specifically for college students and the designers are asking for your suggestions. It is both the designers' and your wish that the app can help you use social media reasonably, keep it from becoming a distraction, and aid you in your study.



#### Step Learn about your classmates' use of social media

- 1 Work in groups of three or four and conduct a survey of social media use in your class. Ask at least four students not in your group the following questions.
  - How much time do you spend using social media per day on average?
  - What are the biggest problems social media has caused you?
  - Do you think social media could facilitate study? Why or why not?You may also ask other questions related to social media use.

#### Step Give suggestions on app functions

- 2 Based on the findings of your survey, discuss in groups the functions you want this new app to have. Bear in mind that the app should help you make better use of social media and also function as an aid to the life and study of college students.

#### Step Prepare a proposal

- 3 Prepare a short proposal based on your survey findings and discussion and get ready to present it to the class.

#### Step Present your proposal and vote for the best functions

- 4 Present your proposal to the class. After the presentation, the whole class votes for the top three functions.