

Cell Phones Classroom Activity

The Classroom Activity introduces students to the context of a performance task, so they are not disadvantaged in demonstrating the skills the task intends to assess. Contextual elements include: an understanding of the setting or situation in which the task is placed, potentially unfamiliar concepts that are associated with the scenario, and key terms or vocabulary students will need to understand in order to meaningfully engage with and complete the performance task. The Classroom Activity is also intended to generate student interest in further exploration of the key idea(s). The Classroom Activity should be easy to implement with clear instructions.

Please read through the entire Classroom Activity before beginning the activity with students to ensure any classroom preparation can be completed in advance.

Resources Needed: None

Learning Goal:

- The student will understand the context of the key ideas related to the topic:
 - Cell phone features
 - Choosing a cell phone plan
- The student will understand the following vocabulary:
 - Cell Phone: a small telephone that people can take with them and use outside of their homes
 - Cell Phone Plan: a payment plan for using a cell phone
 - Text Message: a short message that is sent electronically to a cell phone or other device
 - Overuse Fee: a fee, charged per minute, that is incurred when a user goes over the minutes allowed under his or her cell phone plan

Definitions are provided here for the convenience of facilitators. Students are expected to understand these key terms as they arise in the context of the task, not to be able to recite the definitions.

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[Purpose: The facilitator’s goal is to help students understand the features of cell phones and cell phone payment plans.]

Facilitator says: “Today we are going to talk about cell phones. Who has a cell phone or knows someone with a cell phone?” [Allow students to discuss.]

Facilitator says: “What can you do with a cell phone?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure that making calls, sending text messages, and taking/sending photos are mentioned and that all students understand the purpose of a cell phone.]

Facilitator says: “Some cell phone companies require you to have a plan to use your cell phone. What services are usually included in a cell phone plan?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure talking, texting, and photos are brought up.]

Facilitator says: “Different cell phone companies have various plans to pay for the number of minutes you talk and the number of texts and photos you send or receive. Does anyone know how the companies charge for these services?” [Allow students to discuss. If necessary, expand on the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “Some plans allow you to pay for a set number of minutes, texts, or photos each month. With other plans, you pay to use an unlimited number of minutes, texts, or photos. Finally, there are also plans where you pay a separate fee for every minute you talk, and for every text and photo you send or receive.” [Allow students to ask questions.]

Facilitator says: “What happens if you use more minutes, texts, or photos than your plan allows?” [Allow students to discuss. If necessary, expand on the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “Many cell phone companies charge an overuse fee if you use more of a service than is given to you in your plan. There is usually a separate fee charged for every minute you talk and for every text or photo you send or receive that is over your plan limits.” [Allow students to ask questions.]

Facilitator says: “Today, we completed an activity about the use of cell phones and cell phone payment plans. These ideas may help you when you complete your performance task.”

Facilitator says: “Are there any questions?” [Allow for student questions.]

Facilitator says: “You are now ready to complete the Cell Phone Performance Task.”