

ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO STATALE “BRUNO MUNARI”
ESAME CONCLUSIVO DEL PRIMO CICLO D’ISTRUZIONE
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Prova n.2

READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY, THEN DO EXERCISES 1 AND 2.

From smart people to smartphones.

Can you imagine a day without your smartphone? If you can't find it in your pocket or in your bag, do you start panicking? Most people feel like they have lost a part of their body and they begin to feel anxious and isolated from the rest of the world, even though they are with friends and there are people around them. How have we come to this?

Communication has been essential to man since the time of cave drawings. However, since then it has made some progress. The first great innovation was the alphabet invented circa 1600 BC. This permitted more people to communicate more complex concepts faster. Then the Chinese invented paper around 200 BC. It reached Europe in the Middle Ages. Paper was easier to write on and carry around than clay, wood, slate or waxed tablets.

The printing press was the next big leap forward. Invented in the mid-15th century, it could print books and news sheets for a large public. For the first time, people could be informed about what happened around them. The first regular daily newspaper was printed in England in 1702. Then in 1860 the Penny Post was created, also in London; it was the first cheap way to communicate privately with people who lived in a distant place. During the 19th century, the telegraph, the fax machine and the telephone were invented. The telephone permitted instant private communication with someone who was far away.

In 1901 Marconi sent the first radio message across the Atlantic. BBC radio started broadcasting in 1922 and in 1936 BBC television began regular transmission. From then on people could access news and entertainment in their own homes though the family TV set didn't become common in Britain until the 50s and 60s. By the 70s, most British people also had a phone at home.

Then came the mobile phone. The first mobile phones in Britain appeared in 1985. They were ridiculously bulky and heavy to carry around, but people who owned them felt very smart. However, most people bought their first mobile in the late 1990s. Initially, mobile phones could only make and receive calls, keep a directory and send text messages. Then they started to take photos. Not much later they were able to show and take videos. After that, with the development of GPS, they became satellite navigators and many other things too! Mobile phones have become so intelligent that we call them smartphones!

Today our smartphones can do everything for us, or almost. We hardly use our brains at all. Technology does it all for us. Have we gone a bit too far? What's coming next?

1. Choose if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F) or not given (NG). Correct the false ones.

1. When people are with friends, they forget about their problems.
2. Prehistoric people didn't need to communicate.
3. China was the first country to invent paper.
4. The printing press was invented in Germany.
5. BBC radio sent the first radio message.
6. British families could access news and entertainment from the 50s and 60s.
7. The first mobile phones were very big.
8. Sending text messages with the first mobiles wasn't easy.

2. Answer the following questions.

1. How do many people feel if they don't have their phone on them?
2. What has communication made since the time of the cavemen?
3. Why was paper better to use than clay or wood?
4. When did the first daily newspaper appear in England?
5. What was invented in the 19th century?
6. What did Marconi do in 1901?
7. What became popular in British homes between 1950 and 1960?
8. What were the first mobile phones in Britain like?
9. Could the first mobile phones take photos and videos?
10. You and technology: use your own ideas and the following questions as guidelines to write a short paragraph (write 80-100 words):

- What type of technological devices do you own?
- When do you use them? How much time do you spend on these devices everyday?
- What do you use them for?
- Do you surf the Internet? How often?
- Do you think the Internet is a safe place for young users? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, are there any rules to avoid risks using social networks?