

Diagnostic

Going to the Cinema

Lyn and Michael went to the cinema. Michael bought a big box of popcorn. Lyn brought a drink and an ice-cream. Tony came to the pictures with his mother. They brought a sandwich to eat from home.

1. What did Michael buy at the cinema?
 - a) Michael bought a big box of popcorn.
 - b) Michael brought a drink and an ice-cream.
 - c) Michael brought a sandwich to eat from home.

2. Who went to the cinema?
 - a) Lyn and Michael
 - b) Tony, Lyn and Michael
 - c) Tony, his mother, Lyn and Michael

3. The word "bought" in sentence two is a:
 - a) Noun
 - b) Verb
 - c) Adjective

The Present

Lyn and Michael went to the shops to buy a birthday present. They were going to their cousin's party. As quick as lightning, Michael found the perfect gift. It was a remote-controlled boat. It cost \$120.00! Lyn was not so sure. Lyn found a stuffed teddy that she thought Lorraine would like more. It was as cute as a cupcake and when it sat on your lap it made baby bear noises. It cost \$60.00.

1. What did Lyn find?
 - a) Lyn found her cousin
 - b) Lyn found a remote-controlled boat
 - c) Lyn found a stuffed teddy

2. Which toy cost the least?
 - a) A remote-controlled boat
 - b) A stuffed teddy
 - c) A cupcake

3. "were going" is an example of what part of speech?

- a) Noun
- b) Adjective
- c) Verb

Earth Hour

At precisely 8.30pm on the last Saturday of March each year, every light will go out. The lights on all the bridges will go out. Eureka Tower will go dark. Southbank will go dark. Even the lights in the high-rise buildings beside the Yarra will go dark to mark Earth Hour. Earth Hour is a statement made by nearly a billion people on each of the seven continents. The planet needs to save energy.

World Wildlife Fund came up with the idea. Earth Hour is the most significant climate-related event in history. The World Wildlife Fund realises the planet is heating up and this affects all of us. Greenhouse gasses caused by burning fossil fuels are speeding up climate change. The melting of sea ice is one result of climate change. By turning off our lights for one hour, we are creating awareness of the energy we use each day. This sends a powerful message to our politicians about the need to investigate alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power.

1. Who came up with the idea of Earth Hour?
 - a) Eureka Tower
 - b) World Wildlife Fund
 - c) United Nations

2. What statement do the creators of Earth Hour make by turning off all the lights?
 - a) The planet needs to save energy
 - b) The planet needs to be heated
 - c) The melting of sea ice is an example of climate change

3. What can you do to save energy in your house?
 - a) Keep my bedroom tidy
 - b) Turn off the lights when you are not in the room.
 - c) Recycle rubbish

Kingdoms

Scientists classify all living things. Large groups are called kingdoms. To begin with, there were two kingdoms, plants and animals. Scientists quickly realised that some organisms did not fit entirely into the plant or the animal group. To classify living things today, scientists look at cell structure, reproduction, how food is obtained and how the organisms move. Plants, animals, fungi, protists, archaeobacteria and eubacteria are the six kingdoms. Within the animal kingdom, scientists have further divided living things into subgroups based on similar characteristics or features. There are two subgroups in the animal world: invertebrates and vertebrates. Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Sponges, worms, insects, spiders and crabs are invertebrates. Vertebrates are animals with a backbone. Reptiles, birds, fish, amphibians and mammals all have internal backbones and skeletons.

1. Name the six kingdoms for all living things?
 - a) Plants, animals, fungi, protists, archaeobacteria and eubacteria.
 - b) Plants, animals, organisms, cells, invertebrates and vertebrates
 - c) Reptiles, birds, fish, amphibians, mammals and skeletons

2. How would you classify the family dog?
 - a) Animal, vertebrate, mammal
 - b) Fungi, vertebrate, many cells
 - c) invertebrate, poodle, puppy

3. How do you think scientists would study cell structure?
 - a) As cells are so small they guess the structure
 - b) They would use a microscope
 - c) They take information from ancient manuscripts

The Missing Ship

By George Pope Morris

<http://www.public-domain-poetry.com/george-pope-morris/missing-ship-27520>

She left the port in gallant style,
With sails and streamers full and free!
I watched her course for many a mile
Far out upon the distant sea!
At dusk she lessened to a speck,
And then I could not trace her more!
Sad hearts were beating on her deck,
Sad hearts were beating on the shore.

Two of the outward bound I knew,
One beautiful, the other brave--
The master worthy, and the crew
Born to contend with wind and wave:
For travel some, and some for gain,
And some for health had gone abroad;
Our prayers were with them on the main,
God-speed the ship and all on board!

That vessel never reached the land!
No tidings of her ever came!
Those who beheld her leave the strand,
For years in anguish heard her name!
And even now in vain they try
To breathe it with a tranquil lip,
Or hide the moisture of the eye
While speaking of that missing ship.

- 1.) Where was the poet standing in the Poem?
 - a) On the deck of the ship
 - b) At the dock where the ship left
 - c) On a beach.

- 2). What was the mission for some of the passengers?
 - a) To study the ocean
 - b) To visit family
 - c) For health reasons

- 3) What do you think happened to the ship?
 - a) The ship returned to port
 - b) It may have been in a terrible storm and sunk
 - c) They made it safely to another land

Should Mobile Phones Be Banned At School?

Mobile phones have become a part of life. By using them, we have immediate access to our friends and family. Furthermore, we expect everyone else to own a smartphone. Smartphones store documents, and provide GPS, text messaging, cameras, music, calendars and social media apps so that we can source information and respond immediately. Our whole life is stored in a phone, but should we be allowed to have phones in class? The invention of the mobile phone has started this debate in many schools. Many see the phone as a distraction and a potential source of bullying and harassment, others see it as an educational device worthy of inclusion in our pencil cases.

For me, I am undecided. My mothering instinct says they should be banned. I want my children to remain focused on learning, hanging onto every word that a teacher utters. Family and friends can wait until after school when students can relax and enjoy social time. My child does not need text messages that might harass and distract during class time. Playing games on phones rather than studying would be a further distraction. School is a time to learn how to use libraries and read books. It is a time to learn to communicate in group discussions, practice negotiating skills, take turns and face challenging conversations. Physical play time is vitally important to the physical development of our children, and phones can limit this kind of play time. I believe phones are too easily used at the expense of face-to-face communication. Anxiety and depression have been linked to the humble mobile phone. Therefore, as a result of these arguments, I believe that we should not have phones in school.

My other way of thinking is that phones are more than just a phone. They provide information, instant dictionaries, maps and background information relevant to classroom content. For example, the camera can be used to photograph notes so that more time is spent on discussions, writing and integrating various ideas. Blue tooth can be used to share ideas with classmates and teachers so that learning evolves and adds to the unit of study. Teachers are no longer the centre of knowledge and learning. The responsibility has shifted to the students to gather information from different sources to build understandings and to become better informed. On this basis, I believe that phones are a valuable tool for a new and improved wave of learning.

So, which way of thinking of mine is right. Should we have phones in school? Are they a learning tool? Do they make mental health issues for our children worse? I guess the verdict is still out. Like other modern inventions, they have their positive and negative points. Maybe it is not about whether we should have phones in school but about learning how and when to use this new invention. As with all new inventions we need to learn to control our use rather than allowing the phone to control us. In conclusion, I believe the mobile phone is a complex device that needs conquering.

Do you agree with the authors thoughts? Discuss and compare your thoughts with those of the author's stating whether you feel mobile phones should be banned. (HEAD)

1. Why did the author use the term “humble mobile phone”?
 - a) Author used the term “humble” to mean innocent and not causing any problems to humans.
 - b) The author was attempting to say the phone had no credit.
 - c) “Humble” is a brand of mobile phone.

2. What was the authors conclusion to the mobile phone debate?
 - a) The author could see good and bad points
 - b) The author feels we need to learn how to use phones responsibly
 - c) The author feels phones in schools are not a good idea

3. What advantages do mobile phones bring to the classroom?
 - a) It is good to text friends about your work during class time
 - b) They are a source of bullying.
 - c) Mobile phones provide information, instant dictionaries, maps and background information relevant to classroom content.