

Video zone: How dirty is your mobile phone? – exercises

Do you think your mobile phone is clean? In this science experiment, some British teenagers discover how dirty their phones really are.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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| 1..... harmful | a. a very small living thing, like a virus or bacterium |
| 2..... to measure something | b. (colloquial) horrible, disgusting |
| 3..... a bug | c. a small machine |
| 4..... a gadget | d. a chemical in the cells of animals and plants which gives the cells energy (full name = adenosine triphosphate) |
| 5..... ATP | e. to use a tool to discover the amount of something (the length, weight, size, etc.) |
| 6..... to challenge somebody | f. dangerous |
| 7..... manky (British English) / gross | g. a little; a bit; in a small way |
| 8..... mildly | h. to invite somebody to participate in a competition |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the correct word or phrase to complete these sentences.

- The presenter says that our mobile phones can be ...

a. almost as dirty as a toilet seat.	b. dirtier than a toilet seat.	c. dirty if we use them in the toilet.
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- Mr O'Callahan's gadget can count bugs because it ...

a. measures a chemical produced by the bugs.	b. has a microscope to see very small bugs.	c. has a special light to see very small bugs.
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- A mobile phone which receives a score of 150 would be considered ...

a. clean.	b. a little dirty.	c. very dirty.
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- Mr O'Callahan says that bugs are ...

a. always dangerous.	b. not always dangerous.	c. more dangerous in hot weather.
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5. The presenter says that maybe the gadget is broken because ...
- a. the results are incredible. b. the results are confusing. c. the gadget is making a strange noise.
6. The results showed that all the pupils' phones were ...
- a. clean. b. a little dirty. c. very dirty.
7. The presenter wins the challenge against Mr O'Callahan because ...
- a. her phone is cleaner. b. her phone is dirtier. c. her phone has a score lower than 100.
8. At the end, the presenter and Mr O'Callahan say that they will ...
- a. clean their phones. b. buy new phones. c. change the way they use their phones.

2. Check your grammar: gap fill

Complete the lines from the video with a modal or auxiliary verb from the box.

could	don't	doesn't
must	has	would

1. You wouldn't usually put a toilet seat up against your ear, _____ you?
2. We love our mobile phones, _____ we?
3. If it's above 200, _____ there be harmful bugs on there that cause diseases?
4. Just because bugs are there, _____ mean they're necessarily harmful.
5. It _____ be broken, surely!
6. Time for the moment of truth: who _____ got the grossest phone?

Discussion

How often do you clean your mobile phone? What other common objects have a lot of bugs that we can't see?