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## USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING: A STUDY

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### Abstract

Mobile phones are highly useful and convenient tools for teaching and learning in present days. However, mobile phones are expensive, it has become mandatory for common people as we are modernized the technology is ruling the roost from the past two decades. A great number of applications are found in mobile phones about English language learning like spell check, dictionaries, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, proof reading etc., to learn language. Because of globalization and to acquire more knowledge, it has become inevitable to both teachers and students to opt computer based learning to make people compatible for digital literacy. Besides, the global pandemic - COVID-19 made the teaching and learning process digital. All educational institutions suddenly changed their scenario from offline classes to online classes due to lock down. Most of the teachers are habituated for classroom teaching and they don't aware the use of mobile phones for taking online classes. Many students from rural areas and most of the people badly off to buy big electronic devices like laptops, PCs and others. They prefer mobile phones for their language learning because mobile phones are portable and easily accessible. This paper presents the actual practice of mobile phones by students and teachers in general and pandemic situation. This study evaluates the behavior, attitudes and the problems of teachers and students face in using their mobile phones in educational purposes.

Keywords: expensive, modernized, decades, digital literacy, badly off

### Introduction

A mobile phone is a common device that can be seen on every hand. The word 'mobile' means ability to move easily. Actually, two variations of phones - one is a mobile phone in the British language, second one is cell phone in American language but, both are called smart phones. Most of the people prefer smart phones, which gives internet access and provide different applications and social media networks. Mobile language is

always in English. The one who operates mobile phones very easily, they have good thinking ability. They can understand the content very easily.

During the 1990s, mobile phone technology made huge improvements. This impacted the way that people communicate; participate in education and linguistics in every day society. The world's first phone made with 1G technology. The second generation of mobiles 2G technology was launched in 1991. It was a great improvement in 1990s.

Mobile phone subscribers surpassed 100 million by 1998. After that, 3G, 4G and 5G technologies are available with advanced features. It indicates how quickly mobile phone technology began to impact the world and became an everyday tool in education.

The mobile phone is a regular device for learning English language. It is a common tool for everyone, especially for students. Students become the experts in operating various functions of the mobile. It is an appropriate tool for teaching and learning. Teachers can be used different teaching aids for better understanding of the students. Teachers and students use mobile phones wisely to get good results.

**The role of smart phones in the teaching - learning process:**

Education becomes highly technological in present days. All educational institutions as well as the government institutions are working for the integration of new techniques relating to the use of technology in teaching and learning.

**Use of mobile phones to teachers in language learning:**

Teachers act as facilitators for the students. Teaching and learning both are possible through mobile phones. Teachers are using different mobile applications to give a good knowledge to the students. Teachers are diligent to learn the technology based applications. Teachers attend training programs that help them to get rid of technology phobia.

1. Teachers should have the knowledge about technology and internet access otherwise they may face difficulties in delivering the concepts and use of the resources.
2. To acquire useful content resources, teachers are using different applications in mobile phones.
3. WPS office is very helpful for teachers to make notes in the form of PDF files, PPTs for presentations and seminars.

4. For immediate responses, teachers accompany text messages either general or Whatsapp message.
5. E-mails are very secure and safe for teachers for their official proceedings with date and time.
6. Voice recorder is useful to record lectures, audio notes, classes, meetings and presentations for teachers in mobile phones.
7. The camera is a convenient option in mobile phone. One can capture pictures, scanning documents and record any kind of information with this small device at any time.
8. Mobile Dictionaries are very friendly for English language teachers. When one can check the meaning of a word, it shows the spelling, correct pronunciation, forms of the words, synonyms and antonyms and others.
9. Major social media applications are Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram all are visible in mobile phones. It helps people to connect across the globe.
10. For activity based learning, teachers utilize some games applications.

**Use of mobile phones to students in language learning:**

In this technological world it is tough to imagine schools and colleges without computers and internet. The Internet is not only a medium of entertainment, but also used for learning new ideas and information that a student cannot get from reading books.

1. Different educational websites provide information to the students and helping them in their exams, assignments, projects and record writing.
2. Mobiles are helpful to Students to open the exam links, attending student webinars, registrations through mobiles.
3. Mobile phones enhance students to acquire general knowledge by referring different websites.

4. Students also use the internet to apply jobs, check results, send e-mails and to apply scholarships very easily.
5. The internet helps the students to improve their social life.
6. Most of the websites provide facility for students to probe questions and clear their doubts for effective learning.
7. Video lectures from eminent faculties can also be downloaded, watch and learn to obtain knowledge in a very cheap and easy way.
8. Online courses give more information to students to study and prepare themselves for competitions.

**Advantages:**

- Vocabulary building: Mobile language is always in English. We use mobile phones more time than we observe and identify frequently used words for the same meaning.
- Focus on Grammar: Grammar lessons show different types of funny exercises on sentence structures, prepositions, verbs and so on.
- Dictionary: with the help of dictionary, teachers and students are learning the correct pronunciation of the words because the English language is not our mother tongue language.
- Speed chats: Text messages, WHATSAPP, e-mails, pictures, recordings, and social media networks are accessible through internet.
- Describing pictures: This is very easy to make kinder garden children to learn new things and can also make language learning entertaining even to the graduate level students.
- Improve four LSRW skills: LSRW skills are the important four language skills.
  - L- Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process.
  - S- Speaking skills expresses correct pronunciation and improves one's thoughts, ideas and feelings.

R- Reading improves our thinking abilities and makes us aware of punctuation.

W- Writing recognizes our spelling and grammar mistakes. It is helpful to improve our ideas.

**Disadvantages:**

- Excessive dependency on mobile phones cause in low confidence and it makes students completely depend on internet.
- Creative skills and brainstorming activities will decrease as students habituate copy, paste of the text.
- If proper care and guidance is not given by the parent, there is a lot of scope to addiction of mobile phones.
- People are not conscious on spellings and sentence structures.
- Another major disadvantage of mobile phones is wastage of time.
- Mobiles are making people sloth and inactive by cutting the ties with social life.
- Excess exposure on digital screens cause lack of sleep resulting in the idle day routines.
- A dry eye syndrome is a common problem that who are spending more than two hours to operate the digital devices.

According to a survey, 92% of teachers use mobile internet to obtain content resources and materials for teaching. 69% of teachers use mobile internet to share their ideas to others. 67% of teachers are using mobile phones to interact with parents and 57% are interacting with students. 87% of students play games, watching videos and texting during lecture hours. 73% of students are using mobile phones to take their exams. 53% of students tease each other with mobile phones. 20% of students are using phones for taking pictures and recording dispensable activities.

The above survey shows that the technology is used more in negative usage by the students. Students use technology wisely then the outcomes are glorious.

**Conclusions**

Mobile is a handy device for everyone. It is an e-book reader for learners. Mobile phones shrunk the world into a global town. Every technology has its own strengths and weaknesses. The above review exemplifies that the use of mobile phones in language learning is increasing rapidly. This technology is being used for evolving learners LSRW skills. Mobile phones are supported for all level learners, i.e., from students to teachers. Thus, the discovery of the review indicates that the use of mobile phone is effective in expanding learners' language skills in various aspects. In the present scenario, on account of COVID –19 pandemic the usage of mobile phones and electronic gadgets have increased rapidly showing the advancements of the technology.

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