

Episode 1 : TELEPHONING!

TOPIC VOCABULARY

<u>TELEPHONING</u>	<u>EVERYDAY EXPRESSIONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Voice message</i> ● <i>Voice call</i> ● <i>Forwarded message</i> ● <i>Messaging apps</i> ● <i>Landline</i> ● <i>Phone box</i> ● <i>Souvenir</i> ● <i>Telephoning</i> ● <i>Pick up the phone</i> ● <i>Ring / phone people</i> ● <i>Ring (somebody) up</i> ● <i>Emojis</i> ● <i>To text somebody</i> ● <i>Instant reply</i> ● <i>Memes</i> ● <i>To plug (something) in</i> ● <i>Pay as you go</i> ● <i>Company phone</i> ● <i>Device</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Generation gap</i> ● <i>To make a mistake</i> ● <i>Pay attention to</i> ● <i>All the time</i> ● <i>Gift</i> ● <i>To be in a hurry</i> ● <i>To catch up with friends</i> ● <i>The other way round</i> ● <i>To go abroad</i> ● <i>To be all over the place</i> ● <i>To wrap something up</i> ● <i>To be up for a plan</i> ● <i>To convey a message</i> ● <i>To pitch in</i> ● <i>To sign a contract</i>

VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1:

Watch and listen to the video, and complete the missing word from the dialogue.

1. Zainab prefers to _____ older relatives rather than sending them voice messages.

- a.call b.text c.telephoning d.instant reply

2. Elo said she is using _____ all the time because it is quicker

- a.text b.voice messages c.computers d.memes

3. Fiona said that she used to go to the _____ to call her Friends

- a.bus stop b.square c.phone box d.phone booth

4. Fiona said _____ was famous in the past, as you paid an amount of money to recharge your phone monthly.

- a.contract b.pay as you go c.phone boxes d.smartphones

5. At the end, Zainab said that teenagers nowadays prefer to _____ rather than to call, and that face-to-face communication is less frequent.

- a.text b.call d.smartphone d.prank

ACTIVITY 2:

- Zainab mentions **GIFs** in the video. There are two acceptable pronunciations of this word, /gɪf/ or /dʒɪf/. However, the inventor of the term says the acronym should be pronounced with a ‘soft g’ like the first consonant sound in ‘jam’ /dʒɪf/ (and like how Zainab says it). You might hear people arguing about how to say this word but both variations are perfectly acceptable! How do you say it?
- Fiona says of her landline “We don’t have the physical telephone **plugged in**” What does ‘**plugged in**’ mean here?
- Mina mentions that people with relatives **abroad** might use WhatsApp to call them. What does it mean to be ‘**abroad**’?
- Elo uses this example when talking about her use of telephones when she was younger “Let’s talk to Maria to see what she’s **up to**” What does ‘**up to**’ mean here?
- At the end of the video, Fiona says “Shall we **wrap it up** there?” What does she mean by ‘**wrap it up**’? In what other ways can this idea be expressed?

EVERYDAY LANGUAGE

ACTIVITY 1:

- Fiona says “**Let’s get into it, then**” and “**Pitch in as you want**” at the beginning, what are some other ways to express these?
- Mina says she finds “...sending emojis **and all that**” is the best way to express herself. What does she mean by ‘**all that**’?
- A few times in the video, the speakers interrupt each other, or speak over each other. Notice the language used to clarify whose turn it is to speak:
 - “**Sorry, Mina, go ahead**”
 - “**No, go for it**”
 - “**Sorry!**” (*covers mouth with hand*)

Find these expressions in the video. What situation or actions prompted their use?

- Zainab says she uses voice messages all the time nowadays. What reasons does she give for this?
- Zainab mentions that sometimes her thoughts are ‘**all over the place**’. What does she mean by this?
- Fiona says “We need some way to **convey** how we’re feeling” What does ‘**convey**’ mean here and what word could you use in its place?

CULTURAL SPOT!

ACTIVITY 1:

- Fiona and Elo discuss their experiences of using phone boxes when they were children and teenagers. It was relatively normal in the early 2000s in Spain and England for a teenager of 12 or 13 years old, to go alone on public transport to meet her friends. Often, phone boxes were the most common way to call a friend from outside the home. Zainab mentions in the video that this was not the case in her area when she was a similar age. What do you think could be some reasons for that? Zainab explains more below:

"I grew up in an era when the US-war had started, which took place in 2003. Back then, the country had already been destroyed because of the Kuwait war and the Iran war. After the US attack on Iraq in 1991, the infrastructure of the country was destroyed, and the government couldn't provide telephone services due to an embargo and sanctions that were imposed on Iraq by a United Nations Security Council in 1991. I was born in 1992 into a country which had just finished two wars, the only thing that the Iraqi people cared about was providing food and medicine to their families. That's why I never experienced using a telephone box, and perhaps even if I had seen one it would likely have been out of order. In any case, since then mobiles have arrived and Iraq has opened up to the world."

- In English, **abbreviations**, **symbols** and **acronyms** are used to shorten messages when texting. However, in Arabic, this is not possible in the same way. Zainab mentions that in Iraq there is a different way to reduce the length of a message, did you catch what it was? Mina says that in Algeria, most people use the latin alphabet when texting even if the message is in Arabic, which allows for symbols, numbers, and **contractions** to be used in order to shorten a message.
- With regard to the similarities and differences in the use of apps for chatting and calling, Viber was the most common in Algeria, Telegram was the most popular in Iraq, and Whatsapp was the most famous in the UK. Facebook is favoured among older people in all the countries mentioned in the video. How does this compare to your country?
- At several points during the video a '**generation gap**' is referred to, What is a **generation gap** and how is a generation gap evident in the video, if it is at all? In what other areas of life (apart from telephoning) can a **generation gap** be observed?

ACTIVITY 2:

1. Is it common for teenagers to own a mobile phone in your country?
2. Where you live, are young teenagers (12-14 years old), male and female, allowed to take public transport and spend time alone in the city?
3. Do young people/teenagers normally share their phones with their parents in your country? What are the reasons for this?
4. Was it ever common to use abbreviations in text messages in your country? Here are some common abbreviations and acronyms used in informal, written English. Can you guess their meanings?
 - CU
 - TTYL
 - ILU
 - ME 2
 - L8R
 - OMG
 - PLS / PLZ
 - 2NITE
 - LOL
 - TKS