



## COMMUNICATION IN TODAY'S MODERN WORLD

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Communication has been carried out in today's world in more ways than were otherwise available to our ancestors. We have indeed gone further than just the plain smoke signals and drum beating that those who came before us used. And with a host of communication devices at our disposal, the whole process has become as seamless as it has been effortless. The wonders of technology, indeed, will never cease to amaze.

I have constantly been in a state of awe as to how the cellular phone has evolved from a large chunk of rectangular device that you could use as a weapon of manual defense, to something tinier than the human hand. Time was when ownership of a mobile phone was a status symbol, only available to those who held highly-responsible positions so they could be within reach at any time of the day. Text messaging was just offered by a single network carrier, and only postpaid accounts were available to consumers. Now, even preschoolers own the latest gadgets available to them—or to their parents' buying power. Subscriber identity module (SIM) cards can be changed as often as one wants, with other people either owning more than one mobile phone to accommodate two carriers or just one mobile phone with dual SIM capacity, or maybe two or three even—I don't know. The mobile devices of today have gone a long, long way from just ordinary communication devices to devices that show tremendous wealth and power. Wow!

My trusty mobile phone was just handed down to me by my youngest sibling, who also handed it down to him by my younger sister. It does not have the trappings of today's powerful devices. The mobile phone's camera is something I don't even use personally; only my children use the camera function. It stores a limited number of songs. I have never found it necessary to change to a better endowed device. I only use it to call people and send text messages when I have to. All right, all right, there's the budgetary consideration, too. Maybe, if I were filthy rich with disposable income, I would purchase something with more functions and applications. However, that's just one huge MAYBE.

Today's communication devices allow us to stay within calling, texting, video calling or emailing distance of each other. The first two capabilities, all mobile phones have. All four capabilities have already been carried by a number of cellular phone models. In my case, I send emails the old-fashioned way with the personal computer (definitely not through smoke signals!).

If only life were as uncomplicated as the ease of sending messages and communicating thru mobile phones. Maybe, some genius could come up with a mobile phone that would solve all of life's problems. Any takers?

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What type of mobile phone do you own? What made you decide to get that device?
2. In your opinion, what are the most important functions of a communication device? Are the devices of the modern world enough to address all our communication requirements?
3. Talk about the very first mobile phone you ever owned. Be able to talk about how and why you got it. What made you decide to replace it?
4. If you had the financial ability to buy any communication device available on the market, what would that device be? Why do you want it?
5. What is communication, in your own definition? Is it adequately provided by today's technology? Why or why not?