Reading & **Topic-Discussion** Textbook for Intermediate and Advanced Students

TEEN TALK 2

Written by LIS KOREA Editorial Staff & Duane Vorhees

Major New Edition

20 Teen Issues with **20** Topical Dialogues

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LIS KOREA

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Part 1

20 Teen Issues

Various Topics in this Part
Will Help Students Improve their
Speaking Ability in Real Situations.

Hey, You! Turn Off that Phone!

Today, mobile phones ring anywhere, any time. They are becoming ever more popular among young people; parents even buy phones for children as young as seven in order to be able to locate[1] them if they get lost.

But young people with mobile phones need to keep a few rules in mind. They should be careful about not talking or texting[2] to strangers, and they should keep their phone bills from skyrocketing.[3] Choosing a phone with a prepaid calling card is one very good option.[4]

Youngsters should also be taught common rules of courtesy,[5] such as turning phones off in theaters and places of worship[6] (they can be set on vibrate). If people don't use common sense when they use their phones, these convenient gadgets[7] can become a headache[8] no remedy[9] can cure.

→**locate** : find (sb/sth)
→**skyrocket** : rise rapidly or suddenly
→**courtesy** : good manners or social conduct
→**worship** : activity of praying and singing etc. in order to show respect and love for God or a god
→**gadget** : small mechanical device
→**remedy** : medicine
→**text** : send a written message to (sb) using a cellphone
→**option** : choice
→**headache** : nuisance

What Does It Mean?

(1) keep their phone bills from skyrocketing
(2) use common sense when they use their phones
(3) a headache no remedy can cure

Comprehension

(1) Why do parents get phones for very young kids?
(2) What are some of the problems implied* by this article?

TEEN TALK!

1. Do you have a cell phone? Why or why not?
2. Who pays your phone bills?
3. How do you use your phone?
4. Do you put your phone on the vibrate mode? Under what circumstances?
5. Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of having a cell phone.
6. What are some courteous ways of using a cell phone in public?
7. How do you feel if you do not have your cell phone with you?

*imply : say or express (sth) indirectly

Opinion Samples >>

(1) It's hard to imagine life without a cell phone. I never need to feel alone. I can call my friends any time, or they can call me. If we're not at home, we can still get important messages very easily. If I'm going to be late for an appointment, or if I get lost, it's very easy to contact the other person and straighten the affair out.[1] And, if I want to be left alone, it's a simple matter to turn the phone off or put it on vibrate. So, it's the best of both worlds, combining ready access[2] to others and complete isolation[3] if I choose.

(2) Every now and then[4] I forget to take my phone with me, or it needs to be charged. Invariably,[5] when this happens, I miss some vital[6] communication: someone trying to meet me or tell me something important. By the time I get the message, it's usually too late to do anything about it. I've read that there are devices[7] you can carry with you very easily that go off[8] whenever you are more than 50 meters from your phone; that way, it's hard to lose it or leave it behind absentmindedly.[9] Maybe I should get one of those!

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[1] **straighten out** : deal with a problem or a confused situation
[2] **access** : way of approaching or reaching
[3] **isolation** : state of being separated from other people
[4] **every now and then** : sometimes, but not regularly or often
[5] **invariably** : always or almost always
[6] **vital** : very important, necessary, or essential
[7] **device** : machine or other small object that does a special job
[8] **go off** : start making a noise as a signal or warning
[9] **absentminded** : likely to forget things or to think about (sth) different from what should be thought about at the time

Read & Discuss

Buckle Up and Live!

In April last year, I was traveling through a remote[→] area in a van[→] with my medical team. On the way, our driver sped up, took a curve on the wrong side, lost control of our vehicle and crashed head-on[→] with a bus coming from the opposite direction. The accident was extremely serious. My left leg was so badly crushed[→] that it had to be amputated[→] below the knee. However, except for a small superficial[→] cut on my forehead, there were no injuries to my head or trunk,[→] so I will eventually be able to return to my medical career. Even though I lost a leg due to[→] the carelessness of one driver, my life was saved because I had buckled up.

1. Why do you think people often neglect to fasten their seat belts?
2. What do you think are the main reasons for traffic accidents?

→ **buckle up** : fasten a seat belt in a car, airplane, etc.
→ **remote** : located far away
→ **van** : vehicle used for carrying goods or several people. It is usually larger than a car and smaller than a truck, and the back part is enclosed
→ **head-on** : front-first
→ **crushed** : severely damaged or destroyed
→ **amputate** : cut off (a part of the body), esp. by surgery
→ **superficial** : affecting only the surface of the skin or the outside part of (sth), and therefore not serious
→ **trunk** : main part of one's body, not including head, arms, or legs
→ **due to** : because of; owing to

Very Dear Diary

I'm so mad at my mother, I want to do something terrible to her. Today when I was in school she went into my desk drawer and read my diary. It was locked, but somehow she jimmied[+] it open. There were some very personal things in there that I didn't want anyone to know about. Tonight after supper Mother began to ask me some odd questions, so I knew something was wrong. When I went to my diary to write, I noticed that the lock was scratched[+] and it had been opened. I accused[+] her outright,[+] and she said a girl who had nothing to be ashamed of wouldn't be afraid to let anybody look in her diary!

I have lost all respect for my mother. I think she is an underhanded[+] sneak. But she says that I am the one who is wrong. What do you think about this? Does a mother have the right to go into her daughter's diary?

+ **jimmy** : break open a lock, door, or window, with a long narrow piece of metal
+ **scratch** : make a thin shallow cut or mark on (a surface) with a sharp instrument
+ **accuse** : find (sb) to be at fault; blame
+ **outright** : openly; straight to one's face
+ **underhanded** : deceptive, sly, or secretive