

## Pupils react to French phone ban

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

What do you use your phone for?

watching films and TV

making phone calls

messaging

reading

listening to music

shopping

directions (maps)

booking tickets

making restaurant reservations

taking photos and videos



What do you think teenagers use their phones for?

#### 2 Key words

Match the key words with the definitions. Then, find them in the article to read them in context. The paragraph numbers will help you.

rule

chat

previously

ban

ignore

1. officially not allow something \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
2. statement explaining what someone can or cannot do \_\_\_\_\_ (para 4)
3. pretend that you have not noticed something \_\_\_\_\_ (para 5)
4. before the present time or before the time you are discussing \_\_\_\_\_ (para 7)
5. talk in a friendly way \_\_\_\_\_ (para 8)

corridors

addiction

disconnect

empathy

interaction

6. a strong need or wish to spend as much time as possible doing a particular activity \_\_\_\_\_ (para 9)
7. stop using technology \_\_\_\_\_ (para 11)
8. the activity of being with and talking to other people \_\_\_\_\_ (para 12)
9. the ability to understand how someone feels because you can imagine what it is like to be them \_\_\_\_\_ (para 12)
10. long passages inside a building with doors on each side \_\_\_\_\_ (para 13)

## Pupils react to French phone ban

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### **'It's pretty easy to talk instead': pupils react to French phone ban**

Angelique Chrisafis

7 September, 2018

- 1 It's the end of lessons at Claude Debussy middle school in Paris. Several 13-year-olds check their mobile phones, which have been turned off for eight hours.
- 2 Children's phones have been banned from all state middle schools in France. President Emmanuel Macron said that the new law would help keep teenagers away from their phones.
- 3 "I thought I would hate it but it has been fine," said one 13-year-old girl, who got an iPhone when she was 11. "I left my phone in my bag all day. Normally, I would use Snapchat and Instagram. But my friends are here at school so it's easy to just talk instead."
- 4 She said she would probably use her phone more at home. "My parents don't set rules on phone use but I've made my own rule: I don't check my phone after 11.30pm on a school night."
- 5 Her friend, also 13, said she liked using her phone for watching shows on Netflix but the school internet connection was not good enough for that. So, she used to look at photos and listen to music at break time. "I haven't found it hard to ignore my phone this week," she said.
- 6 The school has 460 pupils aged 11 to 15. Teachers prepared the pupils for the law by introducing phone-free Mondays last term.
- 7 Previously, staff noticed that at break time, children stood in the playground looking at their phones.
- 8 "About four or five weeks after the start of our phone-free Monday experiment, children brought cards into school to play in break time," said the headteacher, Eric Lathière. "Children brought books in to read and they chatted far more than before."
- 9 He said he thought the new law was good: "It's about educating people on phone addiction – not just children; adults, too."
- 10 He said that the ban is not anti-technology. "We can't go against technology. It's about education around tech use."
- 11 The French education minister says teenagers should have the right to disconnect. In France, children's phones were already banned in classrooms – except for teaching purposes – but under the new law, they are banned everywhere inside the school gates, including playgrounds and canteens.
- 12 Schools said they have noticed more social interaction and empathy between children, and children are more ready to learn at the start of lessons.
- 13 Jean-Noël Taché, the headteacher of a middle school with 800 pupils in a small town in Aveyron, said that previously, before the ban, his pupils could use their phones at break time. "But we'd noticed that little by little, the phone use was moving from the playground into the hall, then into the corridors, the lunch queues, outside the classroom door. Pupils weren't making calls; they were sending messages, playing on or looking at their phone – it became part of their hand."
- 14 But at the school gate, a 14-year-old girl said adults should trust teenagers more. "Adults think that our generation can't concentrate and doesn't know how to socialize. That's not true," she said. "When I'm with friends, I show them a picture on my phone or look something up and that just adds to our conversation. It's a shame that I can't do that inside school anymore."

© Guardian News and Media 2018

First published in *The Guardian*, 07/09/18

## Pupils react to French phone ban

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the article?

1. Phones have been banned in all schools in France.
2. The Claude Debussy middle school in Paris prepared pupils in the term before the ban by making one day each week phone-free.
3. After a few weeks, teachers saw that the pupils were playing card games and talking to each other more than they did before.
4. The ban is about educating all age groups about mobile phone use and addiction.
5. Eric Lathière, headteacher of Claude Debussy middle school in Paris, said that the ban is anti-technology.
6. Teachers say that they are able to start their lessons on time now that children do not use their phones at the start of lessons.
7. Children are not allowed to use their mobile phones in school at all now.
8. A teenager in the article says that because of their phone addiction, her age group don't know how to socialize.

#### 4 Job titles

a. Find job titles in the article for these jobs.

1. the political leader of a country that does not have a king or queen
2. a teacher who is in charge of a school
3. an official in charge of a government department

b. Who in the article has these job titles?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Pupils react to French phone ban

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 5 Vocabulary-building

a. Use vowels (a, e, i, o, u) to complete the words from the article. The words are all connected to schools.

1. l \_ \_ ss \_ \_ n
2. br \_ \_ \_ k t \_ \_ m \_ \_
3. t \_ \_ \_ ch \_ \_ r
4. p \_ \_ p \_ \_ l
5. t \_ \_ rm
6. pl \_ \_ ygr \_ \_ \_ nd
7. cl \_ \_ ssr \_ \_ \_ m
8. sch \_ \_ \_ l g \_ \_ t \_ \_

b. Use the words to talk about when you were at school. For example, *There were thirty-two pupils in my class at school.*

#### 6 Discussion

Write your answers to these questions.

- At what age do you think children should get their own smart phone?
- Should phones be banned from schools?
- Should phones be banned from universities and colleges?
- Who should decide when and where children use their phones?

Now, compare your answers. Do you agree with your classmates?

#### 7 Mobile phone rules

Write some mobile-phone rules for your school.

In the classroom, students ...	must / mustn't ...
During break time, students ...	should / shouldn't ...

## Pupils react to French phone ban

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. ban
2. rule
3. ignore
4. previously
5. chat
6. addiction
7. disconnect
8. interaction
9. empathy
10. corridors

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. F – They have been banned in all state middle schools.
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. F – He said that the ban is not anti-technology and that schools can't go against technology. It's about education around tech use.
6. T
7. F – They may use them for teaching purposes.
8. F – She says it's not true that they don't know how to socialize.

#### 4 Job titles

- a.
  1. president
  2. headteacher
  3. minister
- b.
  1. Emmanuel Macron, president of France
  2. Eric Lathière, headteacher at Claude Debussy middle school, Paris; Jean-Noël Taché, headteacher in a middle school in Aveyron
  3. the French education minister

#### 5 Vocabulary-building

- a.
  1. lesson
  2. break time
  3. teacher
  4. pupil
  5. term
  6. playground
  7. classroom
  8. school gate