

# Where Are Your Cell Phone Manners?



## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What are cell phone manners?

### Definitions:

- Rude – showing or having bad manners, not polite
- Culture – the beliefs, ideas, customs, and ways of being or acting that are part of a group

## Reading

11 People love their cell phones. The Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association  
28 reports that as of June 2005, over 190 million people in the United States used cell phones  
45 compared with 4.3 million in 1990. People use their cell phones many times a day in many  
67 different places. They talk in the car or on a bus. They talk in the store or at the mall. They even  
77 talk on their cell phones during movies and worship services.

93 The growing use of cell phones has also created a growing culture of rude behavior. People  
110 are becoming so used to seeing and hearing cell phones, that some have forgotten proper cell phone  
122 **etiquette**. Yes, there are some dos and don'ts of cell phone use.

139 One of the worst habits of cell phone users is “cell yell,” or loud conversations in public  
156 places. Cell phone users need to respect the personal space of those around them. Loud, long rings  
174 are annoying. One should keep the ringer at a low volume or better yet, turn it to vibrate.

194 An easy adage to remember is, if the lights are off, you're cell phone should be off too. It is  
214 rude to those paying movie-goers sitting next to you to hear your cell phone ring. It's even ruder if  
231 you answer your phone and talk during the movie. The same is true for concerts, plays, musicals,  
246 lectures, and worship services. If the spotlight is not on you, you shouldn't be talking.

263 Respect the rules of those places that request no cell phone use on their site. When you  
278 make or receive calls, electromagnetic waves are sent through the air. Hospitals and airplanes have  
292 many electronic devices and computers. When electromagnetic waves try to go through them, they  
304 sometimes stop working. A heart monitor could malfunction. A plane could crash.

321 The next time you turn on your beloved cell phone, think of those around you. Help create  
328 a kinder world, not a ruder one.

## Understanding

1. What is “cell yell”? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What does the word **etiquette** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Has cell phone use increased or decreased in last fifteen years? And, by how much? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. How are cell phone calls carried through the air? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What are some good manners of cell phone use? (List at least three.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. What does the word **respect** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Why should cell phones not be used in airplanes? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: Write about your own cell phone use, or the cell phone use of others. Do you use good cell phone manners? Do others? Explain.

Option B: Summarize the reading in your own words.

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