



Safety and Rules

Article: should schools have stricter phone rules?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. When can phones be useful at school?
2. How can phones distract students or cause problems?
3. What kind of school rule would feel fair?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.

Use a catchy title and opening hook.

Develop ideas with reasons and examples.

Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether schools should have stricter rules about mobile phones. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Phones distract people in lessons.'

'We need them to contact our families.'

'Break times would be friendlier without screens.'

'A total ban would be too strict.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

Phones at School: Useful or Distracting?

Could one small screen change the atmosphere of a whole school day? Mobile phones are useful, but they can also pull attention away from people and lessons. That is why phone rules need to be clear and fair.

Stricter rules could help students concentrate. If phones are kept away during lessons, there are fewer messages, games and notifications competing with the teacher. Break times might also become more sociable if students talk to each other instead of scrolling silently, and this could improve the mood around school.

On the other hand, a total ban would be too harsh. Many students need phones to contact families, check bus times or feel safe on the journey home. Phones can also be useful for learning when teachers plan activities carefully.

In my opinion, schools should not ban phones completely. A better rule would be to keep them out of sight during lessons, but allow them at certain times for practical reasons. That way, students learn responsibility without losing a useful tool.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, hook, reasons, other side and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain why stricter rules could help?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why phones can still be useful?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a fair rule?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or condition that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
why rules help	conditional + result language	You are explaining what stricter rules could change.	If phones are kept away / there are fewer messages
why phones matter	contrast + practical examples	You are showing why a complete ban may be unfair.	On the other hand / contact families, check bus times
your view	balanced rule language	You are suggesting a fair and practical solution.	not ban phones completely / allow them at certain times

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	Could one small screen change...? / Useful or distracting? / Do phone rules need a rethink?
add context	Mobile phones are useful, but... / pull attention away from... / need to be clear and fair
introduce benefits	Stricter rules could... / If phones are kept away... / Break times might also...
show contrast	On the other hand... / a total ban would... / Phones can also be useful when...
give examples	messages, games and notifications / contact families / check bus times
finish with a view	In my opinion... / A better rule would be... / That way, students learn...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe phones	mobile phones / screen / messages / notifications	
describe rules	kept away / out of sight / total ban / certain times	
describe benefits	concentrate / sociable / learn responsibility	
sound article-like	one small screen / scrolling silently	
upgrade ideas	clear and fair / practical reasons / useful tool	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another school rule.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
why stricter rules help		
why phones matter too		
final view / suggestion		

