

## Breaking News English good to go on mobile devices

4th June, 2016



The website Breaking News English.com has upgraded its pages to be easier to use on mobile phones and tablets. This improvement means students and teachers who wish to browse the lessons, read the news articles or do the activities on their mobile devices can now do so with ease. The Internet has changed beyond recognition since it started a few decades ago. Being online today is worlds apart from the worldwide web of 20 years

ago. Back then, web pages simply consisted of text and took an age to load. People could only view them on bulky desktop computers. Today, we have movies, music, games, GPS and a whole plethora of apps on our mobile phones.

The owner of Breaking News English commissioned the website developer markbaindesign.com to make the site mobile friendly. Designer Mark Bain has created many eye-catching sites for some of the world's leading educators. Mr Bain summed up his thoughts on today's online world by saying: "Expectations about what can be done on a phone are rising every day." His work on Breaking News English is already popular. Saeed from Kuwait said: "I'm extremely happy with the new look. It is now much easier to get to grips with the activities." Another student, Rosa from Bolivia, said she could now interact with the news articles and exercises during her daily commute to work.

Sources: [BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://BreakingNewsEnglish.com) / [MarkBainDesign.com](http://MarkBainDesign.com)

## Writing

Using mobile devices is the best way to study. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

website / breaking news / improvement / browse / changed / text / computers / apps / mobile / eye-catching / educators / expectations / popular / activities / commute

## True / False

- The article says BreakingNewsEnglish.com now has an upgraded app. T / F
- The article says it is easier to browse the BreakingNewsEnglish site. T / F
- The article says a part of the world is not online. T / F
- The article says the Internet used to be just slow-loading pages of text. T / F
- A website developer made Breaking News English more mobile friendly. T / F
- The website designer has made many sites about eyes. T / F
- The designer said people expect their phones will do more things. T / F
- A Bolivian student uses the news articles for her daily compute. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. upgraded          | a. upgrade       |
| 2. improvement       | b. suppositions  |
| 3. ease              | c. cumbersome    |
| 4. consisted         | d. deal with     |
| 5. bulky             | e. no difficulty |
| 6. commissioned      | f. features      |
| 7. eye-catching      | g. modernised    |
| 8. expectations      | h. striking      |
| 9. get to grips with | i. contracted    |
| 10. articles         | j. was made up o |

## Discussion – Student A

- What are the advantages of learning English on mobile phones?
- What are the disadvantages of learning English on mobile phones?
- What do you think of the job of a website designer?
- What are the most eye-catching sites you know of?
- What will mobile phones be able to do in the future?
- What do you do while travelling to work or school?
- What advice do you have for the owner of Breaking News English?
- What questions would you like to ask the creator of this site?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. teachers who wish            | a. friendly          |
| 2. can now do so with           | b. desktop computers |
| 3. Being online today is worlds | c. up his thoughts   |
| 4. view them on bulky           | d. ease              |
| 5. a whole                      | e. commute to work   |
| 6. make the site mobile         | f. apart             |
| 7. created many eye-            | g. grips with        |
| 8. Mr Bain summed               | h. catching sites    |
| 9. much easier to get to        | i. plethora of apps  |
| 10. during her daily            | j. to browse         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What did you think when you read the headline?
- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'mobile'?
- What do you think of the materials from this website?
- How important is a mobile phone to you?
- Do you prefer using a tablet or mobile phone?
- What would life be like without mobile devices?
- When is it better to use a desktop computer?
- How do you study English using mobile devices?

## Spelling

- This mtmproveien means...
- The Internet has changed beyond oertgioncn
- it started a few saddcee ago
- simply sonitcsed of text
- view them on bkyul desktop computers
- a whole ortehpla of apps
- icsnodmimsoe the website developer
- created many yee-tiangcch sites
- the world's leading ascoedtru
- petacixtosne about what can be done
- I'm xlrmetyee happy
- during her daily umtceom to work

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. a	3. e	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. h	8. b	9. d	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – BreakingNewsEnglish

You think BreakingNewsEnglish is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, Wikipedia or YouTube.

### Role B – Facebook

You think Facebook is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): BreakingNewsEnglish, Wikipedia or YouTube.

### Role C – Wikipedia

You think Wikipedia is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, BreakingNewsEnglish or YouTube.

### Role D – YouTube

You think YouTube is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, Wikipedia or BreakingNewsEnglish.

## Speaking – Websites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • BreakingNewsEnglish | • Google    |
| • BBC.com             | • YouTube   |
| • Facebook            | • Wikipedia |
| • Instagram           | • Amazon    |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.