



A Lesson on Today's Telephone by Madeleine Darowiche

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: telephone vocabulary

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students will learn new vocabulary terms and the history of the modern telephone as well as how it came to be.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Today's Telephone by

Content: Today's telephone has a long history as a part of American technology. It is American because an American, Alexander Graham Bell, invented it. The story begins very long ago, when there were no telephones. The only way to get a message to someone else was to write it and send it. Long ago there were messengers who traveled on foot. They were people who would run from place to place, transporting messages to other people. They would run miles, and they had great endurance. Later, communications improved in that people would send letters that traveled by wagons. In time, the mail would travel by train.

After the invention of a new communications tool, people could send messages quickly. That tool was the telegraph, which used a line that went from one place to another. It took years to put all the telegraph lines across America. At one end of the line a person used a device to send a message by code. At the other end, the message would be received and translated by another person. With those telegraph lines people could send messages almost immediately, although it was not person to person.

The telegraph was a remarkable invention, but it did not let people talk to each other. The telegraph meant the end of the pony express, which had been an American invention of another sort. The pony express involved riders who would carry a bag of mail from one place to another riding quickly on horses. It was like a relay race. Those riders were replaced by telegraph operators. They had to know the code to get the messages across the wires. On one end of the telegraph, an operator clicked the message. On the other end, a machine would make the same clicks. At first, a person had to listen and note what the clicks said. But then they figured out how to make the machine record them.

Still, there was no telephone. Then Alexander Graham Bell invented it. He tried many ways to get a machine that would work, and he was persistent because he failed many times. After many attempts, he perfected the machine. Once he had done that, the world all wanted telephones.

The next changes for the telephone were the same as the telegraph. People had to put in all those lines. If you see a picture of Chicago in 1900 you will see lots of wires downtown. The first telephone lines went from one person's phone to another. Those were called landlines. Then they added what were called switching stations, so one line could reach more than one place. Still, it would take years to get the phone system to work more efficiently.

Today there are cell phones, which do not need wires. They use signals that travel through the air, carried by systems that depend on the science of physics. Many people now do not have a landline any more, and just depend on their cell phone. The cell phone is changing communication and even impacting how people live. It can connect people through texts as well as voice. It can download music from the Internet. Some people even use their computers to talk to other people with video screens. Those are the latest innovations in communication. So the telephone is still changing.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: record **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "But then they figured out how to make the machine record them." What does the word record mean in this sentence?

A: to transcribe

B: vinyl music playing disk

C: a written compilation of important things such birth dates, death dates, etc.

D: an accomplishment not often met, rarely broken

Question: Which sentence uses the word record like it is used above?

A: The high school track star set a new record.

B: The boy's grandfather showed him his old record player.

C: When he interviews the applicant, the employee will record the answers on a computer.

D: The local library kept a record of the births and deaths of the people in the city.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: telegraph **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: With those telegraph lines people could send messages almost immediately, although it was not ?person to person.?What does the word telegraph mean in this sentence?

A: email

B: telephone

C: a system for transmitting messages from a distance along a wire

D: write

Question: Which sentence uses the word telegraph correctly?

A: He likes to telegraph in his free time.

B: My great grandmother told me about how she used to send my great grandfather a telegraph every month.

C: I will telegraph the conversation tonight.

D: Long ago, people got news through the telegraph.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: innovation **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The story's author says, "Those are the latest innovations in communication." What does the word innovation mean in this sentence?

A: rules

B: lagging behind

C: old

D: new method

Question: Which sentence uses innovations correctly?

A: The local store sold innovations.

B: Innovations are useful in sleeping.

C: With time usually comes innovations in technology.

D: The city's biggest innovations were the weather.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: pony express **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "The pony express involved riders who would carry a bag of mail from one place to another riding quickly on horses." What does the phrase pony express mean in this sentence

A: a group of people who rode on horses to deliver mail

B: a gang of horses in a field

C: a type of horse race

D: a new types of barn for horses

Question: Which sentence uses the phrase pony express correctly?

A: Pony express is a term for a group of horses.

B: The pony express was used before our modern communication systems

C: The little boy loved riding the pony express train in the mall.

D: Riding three miles on a horse was a good way to achieve pony express status.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why do people not use landlines?

Give at least three reasons as to why people do not use landlines and two advantages and two disadvantages.

2 - Where did the Pony Express get its name?

Where did the Pony Express get its name, and what is its importance?

3 - Why was there a process in creating the telephone?

What was the sequence of events in developing the telephone, and why were they important?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 500 word?essay on comparing and contrasting two other inventors of the time period with Alexander Graham Bell and their inventions.

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