

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Favorite Apps and YouTube Sites

### Phone Apps

Our lives today are surrounded by technology that was unimaginable one hundred years ago. Airplanes can now take us anywhere in the world, we have developed vaccines for diseases that were once fatal, and people are able to communicate internationally, instantly. One of the most used advancements is what has been dubbed the 'smartphone'. According to the Pew Research Center, 77% of Americans owned a smartphone in January 2018. I bet most of you reading this even have one! What makes a smartphone 'smart' is its ability to access the Internet and download applications, which we call "apps" for short.

*How many of you own a smartphone? Did you ever have a cell phone that wasn't a smartphone? If you own a smartphone, would you ever consider trading it in for a regular cell phone? Why or why not?*

There are thousands of apps for every purpose you can think of; the newest iPhone update includes an app that lets you measure objects using the built-in camera! There are apps that allow you to create to-do lists that you can share with other users, that gives you access to religious writings, or enable you to manage your bank account. There are many other apps that aren't as utility oriented, though. People often download games on their phone so that they can play them on the go. Some well-known game apps are Angry Birds, Fruit Ninja, and Candy Crush Saga.

*If you have a smartphone, would you say you use it mostly for communicating with others, playing games/surfing the Internet, organizing, or another purpose?*

*What would you say your most used app is?*

*If you have games on your phone, which do you play? What about the game makes you enjoy it?*

There are many people who use their phones to listen to music. Whether they're walking to class or driving to work, studying, singing in the shower, or being a DJ, music is a part of most people's lives in some way. Music is so prevalent that some studies have even shown that it can temporarily relieve symptoms of Alzheimer's under the right circumstances. There are several apps that allow people to play music, each with its own advantages and disadvantages, depending on the user. Spotify, Pandora, iTunes, and YouTube (or YouTube Music) are popular apps for this. The variety of music available, the ability to download songs, and cost are all factors that people consider when using a music app.

*When do you typically listen to music? Do you have a favorite type or genre? Do you have an app on your phone that you use to play music? Which one do you prefer, and why?*

## YouTube

Unlike the previous apps, YouTube is used for more than music. While iTunes does allow you to purchase movies, it is not a 'video sharing' site like YouTube. People who create an account can upload videos to the website, which can then be viewed by others. There is an incredible variety with the videos available on YouTube: music, movie clips, video game footage, compilations of shorter videos, tutorials on anything you can think of, and much more. For some, watching videos on YouTube is one of their usual pastimes. According to videonitch.com, nearly five billion videos are watched on YouTube every single day, with the average viewing session lasting more than 40 minutes!

*Do you use YouTube at all? If so, how much time do you think you use it per week?*

*What do you use YouTube for? Music, tutorials, movies, other entertainment?*

*Share with the other in your group your favorite YouTube sites.*