

Pub talk (Reading)

- Description:** Working with a reading text in small groups.
- Use with or after:** *English Network Connection*, Unit 12.
- Skill:** Reading
- Focus:** Students sort the paragraphs of a text, and answer true/false questions about it.
- Time:** 10 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the second page of this file and make a copy for every two or three students, on stiff paper if possible.
 - Cut on the dotted lines to divide the text into six paragraphs, and to obtain a slip with true/false questions, and another slip with the key.
 - Keep an uncut copy for yourself.
- Procedure:**
- Students form groups of two or three, sitting preferably at tables.
 - Give each group a set of the six paragraphs of the text, in random order.
 - The students in each group read the paragraphs and arrange them in the correct order on their tables. There is only one correct order.
 - In their groups, they should talk about why they have chosen this particular order. For example, in the paragraph that begins *I realised this ...*, the word *this* must refer to something unexpected that was mentioned in the preceding paragraph.
 - Go round to each group and check that the order is correct. Then give them a copy of the true/false questions.
 - In their groups, they decide if the nine statements are true or false. When they have marked their answers, give them the key.

At first I thought Nigel was quite normal. He is about forty, clean-shaven, of medium height, and doesn't look at all unusual. But after a while I began to think there was something strange about him, and now I know what it is – he hasn't got a mobile!

I realised this the other night at the pub. Nigel said "I'll be right back" and then he went up to the bar and asked if he could use their phone. "Is your mobile broken?" I asked him when he came back. "What mobile?" he said. "You haven't got a mobile?" "No, I haven't." "What have you got against mobiles?"

"Nothing. I love mobiles. They're a fantastic invention. Have a look over there, for example, at that young woman at the next to last table. She's smiling so beautifully as she talks into her mobile, laughing, gesturing, she's so lovely. They all look like that when they're using their mobiles. The whole city is full of them. They're not half as beautiful when they're not on the phone, but fortunately for us girl-watchers that doesn't happen very often."

"These poor girls must be running up tremendous phone bills," said another fellow at our table. "They'll be in debt for the rest of their lives. And isn't it bad for their health? I read somewhere that mobiles give off harmful radiation that does bad things to our heads."

"No, it's good for their health," said Nigel, "because when they're telephoning they usually forget to smoke. I once secretly watched a young woman go for fourteen minutes without a cigarette while she was talking on her mobile."

"But why haven't you got a mobile yourself?" I asked him. "I don't need one," he said. "I'm a non-smoker already." "But what if one of your friends wants to talk to you?" "All my friends know I come over here to the pub every day after work," Nigel said. "So if they want to talk to me they can just stop by and have a pint. Cheers!"

After reading the text, decide if these sentences are true or false.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Nigel thinks young people shouldn't smoke so much. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2 Talkative young women get on his nerves. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3 He thinks mobile phones are dangerous. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4 He is worried about young people going into debt. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5 He doesn't smoke or drink beer. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 6 He enjoys watching beautiful young women talk on their mobiles. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 7 He is unemployed. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 8 He is tall. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 9 He wears a beard. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Key: 1 True, 2 False, 3 False, 4 False, 5 False, 6 True, 7 False, 8 False, 9 False

