Where Are Your Cell Phone Manners?

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What are cell phone manners?

Definitions:

- Rude – showing or having bad manners, not polite
- Culture – the beliefs, ideas, customs, and ways of being or acting that are part of a group

Reading

People love their cell phones. The Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association reports that as of June 2005, over 190 million people in the United States used cell phones compared with 4.3 million in 1990. People use their cell phones many times a day in many different places. They talk in the car or on a bus. They talk in the store or at the mall. They even talk on their cell phones during movies and worship services.

The growing use of cell phones has also created a growing culture of rude behavior. People are becoming so used to seeing and hearing cell phones, that some have forgotten proper cell phone etiquette. Yes, there are some dos and don’ts of cell phone use.

One of the worst habits of cell phone users is “cell yell,” or loud conversations in public places. Cell phone users need to respect the personal space of those around them. Loud, long rings are annoying. One should keep the ringer at a low volume or better yet, turn it to vibrate.

An easy adage to remember is, if the lights are off, you’re cell phone should be off too. It is rude to those paying movie-goers sitting next to you to hear your cell phone ring. It’s even ruder if you answer your phone and talk during the movie. The same is true for concerts, plays, musicals, lectures, and worship services. If the spotlight is not on you, you shouldn’t be talking.

Respect the rules of those places that request no cell phone use on their site. When you make or receive calls, electromagnetic waves are sent through the air. Hospitals and airplanes have many electronic devices and computers. When electromagnetic waves try to go through them, they sometimes stop working. A heart monitor could malfunction. A plane could crash.

The next time you turn on your beloved cell phone, think of those around you. Help create a kinder world, not a ruder one.
Understanding
1. What is “cell yell”? ________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
2. What does the word etiquette mean? ________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
3. Has cell phone use increased or decreased in last fifteen years? And, by how much? __________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
4. How are cell phone calls carried through the air? ______________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
5. What are some good manners of cell phone use? (List at least three.) _________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
6. What does the word respect mean? ____________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
7. Why should cell phones not be used in airplanes? _______________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________

Writing
Option A: Write about your own cell phone use, or the cell phone use of others. Do you use good cell phone manners? Do others? Explain.
Option B: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Where Are Your Cell Phone Manners? – Level 5.0