

Cue Card

Describe an invention

You should say:

- . What it is and how it is used**
- . How it has changed the world**
- . How difficult it is to use**
- . And explain why it is important**

Please Note:

Our model answers teach you useful language and give you ideas. However, it is not a good idea to try and memorise them and repeat them in the IELTS exam.

We use the phrase **I bet** when we want to say that we are sure something is true
A **candidate** is a person who is taking an examination

to **(utterly/entirely) revolutionise** = to change something completely

If you **change** something **beyond recognition**, you make it completely and entirely different

If you **stare at** something, you look at it for a long time with your eyes wide open, probably because you are thinking, surprised or afraid

If you **tap** something, you touch or hit it gently

housewives = women who work in the home, doing domestic chores like cooking, cleaning and looking after children (and not usually having work outside the home)

pedestrians = people walking on the sidewalk/pavement, or in an area where there are vehicles

I bet this is the answer all **candidates** give. I'm going to talk about smartphones.

They **have utterly revolutionised** our world and **changed life beyond recognition**. Wherever you go, you see pretty much everybody **staring at** their screens, **tapping** an app, texting or chatting. When I say everyone, that's exactly what I mean – businesspeople, **housewives**, **pedestrians**, motorists, pensioners and I've even seen toddlers with them. If aliens landed, they would spot smartphones straightaway and wonder what they were.

They've altered us. We've become completely dependent on them and addicted to them. They manipulate our thoughts, and reduce our attention span and powers of concentration. They make us more aggressive and egocentric. But, at the same time, they offer us possibilities – almost beyond our dreams – which previous generations could never have imagined.

Smartphones have become indispensable. They make life so convenient. Within seconds you can get in touch with your cousin halfway round the world, buy everything under the sun, download the most obscure music track, or translate what you've just said into Thai. I could go on. The possibilities are endless.

Based on my personal experience, I wouldn't recommend them for those in their seventies or eighties. My gran got one, but she couldn't get the hang of it. My explanation went right over her head. She got so frustrated that she threw it away. On the other hand, if a teenager has to survive 10 minutes without their electronic device, they get withdrawal symptoms. It's the ultimate nightmare!

pensioners = people who have stopped work because they are too old to work and have retired

toddlers = young children who are just learning to walk

aliens = creatures/animals which come from other planets

If you **spot** something, you notice a particular detail, usually because you are looking hard

If you **wonder** about something, you ask yourself questions about it or show a wish to know about it

to **alter** = to change (often to change the characteristics of something or somebody)

If you are **dependent on** something, you need it and you cannot manage/survive without it

If you are **addicted to** something, it is a habit which you are unable to stop

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to **manipulate** = to control something so that you get an advantage (often by using unfair methods)

Your **attention span** is the period/length of time you can concentrate on something without losing focus/interest

An **egocentric** person is selfish, and only thinks about herself/himself

If something is **beyond your dreams**, it is (almost) too good/wonderful for you to imagine

indispensable = so important that you cannot manage without it

We can use the phrase **halfway round the world** to refer to a place which is very far away

We can use the phrase **everything under the sun** to refer to all things which exist

If something is **obscure**, not many people know about it

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We can say **I could go on** or **The possibilities are endless** to indicate that we have a very long list of things to say, but that we don't want to continue with this list

If you **recommend** something, you suggest that a particular action/thing is a good idea

We can refer to older people as **those in their seventies or eighties**

to **get the hang of** something = to learn how to do something which is not obvious or easy

If an explanation **goes right over your head**, it is too difficult or complicated for you to understand

frustrated = annoyed because you cannot achieve or manage to do what you want to do

to **throw** something **away** = to get rid of something you do not want any more; to put something in the bin/trash

You can refer to a smartphone or computer as an **electronic device**

withdrawal symptoms = the unpleasant effects which happen when you stop taking a drug which you are addicted to

You can describe the worst thing which can happen to you as the **ultimate nightmare**

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