

Writing Task 2

You should spend about **40 minutes** on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no special knowledge of the following topic:

Nowadays there is no realistic way of cutting yourself off from the communications blitz. We are all exposed to more communication than anyone would have believed possible 50 years ago. In some respects this has clearly improved the quality of our lives, but at the same time, modern methods of communication have threatened many things that we once believed were important.

Say whether you see instant communication as a blessing or a curse.

You should write **between 250 and 300 words**.

You should support your arguments with examples and ideas of relevance.

You will receive points for relevant content, good organisation, range of vocabulary and sentence structure, and linguistic accuracy.

V4

The question of instant communication being wether a blessing or a curse is a difficult one. Looking at mankind as a “race” who defines itself – besides other things – via scientific progress one could say that the development of speedy communication is a great and important success. Instant communication changed the way of life for many people within very few years.

With a small mobile phone one always has the possibility to talk to friends or relatives, get the latest news or help from a service line or just call a pizza delivery service for food. Furthermore, mobiles have probably been saving many lives because with a mobile phone you can call for help instantly wherever you are.

This benefit of being able to communicate with others whenever necessary (or intended) can also turn into a curse. The dark side of the age of instant communication is the constant shrinking of the private sphere. As it is possible to be available for everybody one is expected to be available. Often there is no more room for privacy. The technical miracle which has brought us closer together and which has made the world smaller has also turned our private lives into smaller worlds. The spell we casted to make life easier has not worked out completely as the newly gained advantages of being available and being able to reach others whenever one likes cannot be undone – often not even for a short while.

But does this make instant communication a curse or still a blessing? I do not know. All I can say is – With a mobile phone one never is alone.

(269 words)

Band 5**Justifications**

The lexical range is just about broad enough on the level of general vocabulary but low-frequency items are missing completely. There are no significant vocabulary errors. Although this text shows a good deal of repetitiveness (*instant communication*), there are some signs of variation (*speedy communication*). Use of collocation can be observed (*cast spell*) but the same sentence shows inconsistent use of register (*cast spell – work out*). A minor spelling mistake (*wether*) in the first sentence.