

3G

Vodafone's UK launch of a range of new 3G handsets in time for Christmas has created interest in the video-phone.

1 Look at this list. What are the three most important features of a mobile phone? Compare your answers with a partner.

diary	alarm clock	digital camera	music
games	address book	Internet access	

2 Read the messages on an Internet discussion forum about 3G phones. Highlight any features from the box above.

3G Discussion forum		
Original message: Vodafone is launching a range of new 3G handsets in the UK. Will 3G services take off?		
Replies		Posted
	{1} I bought a data card for my laptop last April, giving me a fast Internet connection. I don't think 3G will take off, because I can do my work on my notebook, and just use the phone for making calls. John, York.	30 / 10 / 04
	{2} I enjoy using my video-phone. DoCoMo launched 3G here in 2001 and it has many subscribers. The picture quality is OK and I can play advanced games on my phone. I can also make secure credit card transactions with my mobile. When will Europe get 3G? Nobumi, Tokyo.	30 / 10 / 04
	{3} People are more aware of what 3G phones can do now. I think that by 2007 most of the market will be 3G technology. But I think it is much too early to expect high sales in the UK this Christmas. Lynette, York.	31 / 10 / 04
	{4} T-Mobile's parent firm, Deutsche Telekom, has already launched 3G phone services in Germany. I am happy to pay for video clips – especially of the news, or a goal I missed last Saturday. Also, my phone can become an MP3 player and play music. However, using the video-phone is too expensive. Manfred, Ulm.	01 / 11 / 04

3 Read the messages again. Which messages are positive and which messages are negative about 3G?

4 Complete the following table.

VERB	NOUN
	market
to launch	
	reply
to discuss	
	sales
to subscribe	

5 A mobile phone company is researching the 'phone of the future'. Complete the market research questionnaire and compare your results in small groups. Present the results of your group to the rest of the class.

3G QUESTIONNAIRE		
(1)	Do you have a 3G phone?	yes / no
(2)	Would you buy a 3G phone?	yes / no / not sure yet
(3)	Which features are most important for you? (please tick)	downloading video clips: <i>sport</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>news</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>cinema</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>music-video</i> <input type="checkbox"/> making video calls <input type="checkbox"/> advanced games <input type="checkbox"/> cash transactions <input type="checkbox"/>
(4)	Any other information about your likes and dislikes	
(5)	Suggestions for new features	