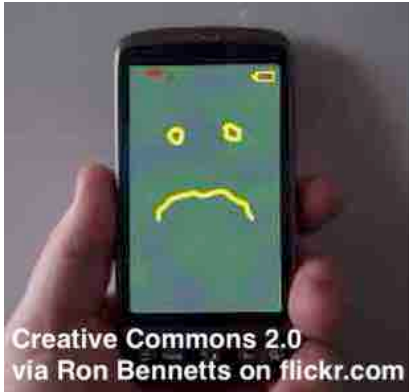


France bans smartphones in schools

4th August, 2018



France has voted to ban smartphones and personal tablets from schools. Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly by 62-1 on Monday to prohibit students aged between 3 and 15 from even bringing their devices to school. The ban is part of a

campaign to reduce addiction to electronics. It fulfills a campaign promise made by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017. French Minister of National Education Jean-Michel Blanquer also campaigned for the ban saying devices were harmful to children's development. He called mobile devices a public health crisis and said the law protects children from the "phenomenon of screen addiction and the phenomenon of bad mobile phone use."

The new ban extends a previous law made in 2010 that meant students could not use their devices in lessons. There are exceptions to the ban for students with disabilities and for using devices in the classroom for extra-curricular activities. Many lawmakers do not believe the ban is enough to bring about change. They believe the ban is little more than a publicity stunt. Application of the ban to students aged 15 and older will depend on the policy of individual schools. Experts have found that the increased use of mobile devices causes cyber-addiction, sleep disruption and bullying. Opponents of the ban say it is a backward step and will not lead to an increase in learning.

Sources: mashable.com / endgadget.com / theverge.com

Writing

What are the pros and cons of smartphones in schools? Would you allow them?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

voted / ban / lawmakers / devices / campaign / addiction / development / harmful / previous / lessons / exceptions / disabilities / publicity stunt / bullying / learning

True / False

- Lawmakers voted 62-1 to ban smartphones in schools. T / F
- Children over the age of 15 will not be able to use smartphones. T / F
- France's president made a promise in 2015 to ban smartphones. T / F
- An education minister called mobile devices a private health crisis. T / F
- Smartphones were banned from using devices in lessons in 2017. T / F
- Students with disabilities may be able to use smartphones. T / F
- Schools can decide their own policy for students aged 15-and over. T / F
- People who disagree with the ban say it will not increase learning. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. ban | a. special cases |
| 2. reduce | b. damaging |
| 3. promise | c. widens |
| 4. harmful | d. separate |
| 5. protects | e. lower |
| 6. extends | f. sufficient |
| 7. exceptions | g. prohibit |
| 8. enough | h. safeguards |
| 9. individual | i. retrograde |
| 10. backward | j. vow |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is a smartphone to you?
- Why might students say they need smartphones at school?
- How did people survive without smartphones 20 years ago?
- Why might smartphones be harmful to children's development?
- How helpful are smartphones for students in schools?
- Why might the ban be a "backward step"?
- What questions would you like to ask the French government?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly | a. curricular activities |
| 2. prohibit | b. development |
| 3. part of a campaign to reduce | c. stunt |
| 4. harmful to children's | d. a previous law |
| 5. the phenomenon | e. students |
| 6. The new ban extends | f. to the ban |
| 7. There are exceptions | g. of screen addiction |
| 8. extra- | h. by 62-1 on Monday |
| 9. a publicity | i. step |
| 10. Opponents of the ban say it is a backward | j. addiction |

Discussion – Student B

- How important are smartphones in society?
- Do students need smartphones in schools?
- Will the smartphone ban help to stop cyber-addiction?
- What is cyber-addiction?
- Why might mobile devices be "a public health crisis"?
- Could you survive without a smartphone?
- How can we protect children from smartphones?
- What problems will we have with smartphones in the future?

Spelling

- Lawmakers voted igelrmvolnhwey by 62-1
- toirbphi students aged between 3 and 15
- It fulfills a gacianpm promise
- nmcpigeada for the ban
- the law totpscre children
- the phenomenon of screen ddntaiioc
- The new ban extends a suierovp law
- There are eoxnscitpe to the ban
- students with saestdbiiil
- extra-curricular csvitiieat
- the policy of lddiiivuan schools
- sleep duonisptri

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Poor Eyesight

You think poor eyesight is the biggest danger of smartphones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): cyber-addiction, sleep disruption or identity theft.

Role B – Cyber-Addiction

You think cyber-addiction is the biggest danger of smartphones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): poor eyesight, sleep disruption or identity theft.

Role C – Sleep Disruption

You think sleep disruption is the biggest danger of smartphones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): cyber-addiction, poor eyesight or identity theft.

Role D – Identity Theft

You think identity theft is the biggest danger of smartphones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): cyber-addiction, sleep disruption or poor eyesight.

Speaking – Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers of smartphones at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • traffic accidents | • eyesight problems |
| • brain cancer | • cyber-addiction |
| • identity theft | • sleep disruption |
| • loss of conversation | • bullying |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.