



- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting  
Off

*The Britishes must resist the urge to spend breakfast starting at their (im)mobile devices. This was undoubtedly the origin of what we now know today as smartphone addiction!*

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

### Video Script:

**Rose:** Right, I've decided that I would rather be **lynched** and burned than marry the young James Poodle.

**Father:** hmm

**Rose:** Or burned and lynched.

**Granny:** Yes. Yes.

**Rose:** Whichever is the more painful **means** of death first.

**Petal:** Quite.

**Rose:** This is ridiculous. Would everyone stop looking up their phones! It's as if we can't have one single family meal without everyone looking at their phones!

**Petal:** But, I've only just got mine. It's **brand-new**.

**Rose:** Oh yes, of course. Phones are new for everyone. They were invented last month

**Father:** You're absolutely right my dear. If we're not careful these new *telephones* could **spell** the end of civilized **discourse** forever. Everybody come on, phones off tables please. Thank you.

**Rose:** You too Father.

**Father:** Me? But what if I get an important call?

**Rose:** They'll leave a message with the butler via **telegram**.

**Father:** Telegram! I might as well write a message on a papyrus leaf and send it **floating** down the fucking Nile.



### Discussion Questions:

- ◊ What do you imagine people did for fun hundreds of years ago before smartphones were invented? Do you think it actually might have been more fun and interesting to have been alive during some bygone era? Why or why not?
- ◊ How did people actually communicate over large distances before the invention of the telephone?
- ◊ Do you think the people of past centuries ever could have imagined what the World we live in today? Do you ever imagine what future centuries will look like?

### Vocabulary:

- **lynch** - (of a group of people) kill (someone) for an alleged offence without a legal trial, especially by hanging
- **means** - method
- **brand-new** - new
- **spell** - mean or have as a result
- **discourse** - conversation; written or spoken communication or debate
- **telegram** - a message sent by telegraph and then delivered in written or printed form, used in the UK only for international messages since 1981
- **float** - rest or move on or near the surface of a liquid without sinking

*Vocabulary continued on next page...*



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STOP STARING  
AT YOUR PHONE

*Video Script continued on next page...*



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### Video Script continued...

**Rose:** Petal! You too!

**Petal:** Well you were talking to Father. I had to **occupy** myself to feel less **awkward**.

**Rose:** Granny!

**Granny:** I'm listening. I can **multi-task** you know.

**Rose:** Father stop looking at your phone under the table!

**Father:** Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you wouldn't notice.

**Rose:** **Disgraceful!** A family breakfast and the only one not looking at their phone is bloody Thorn.

**Thorn:** I lost mine. They make them too small these days! Will someone call it?

**Petal:** What's your number?

**Thorn:** 6.....

**Father:** It's busy. It's probably...

**Rose:** That's it! No more calls! Not at the table, not from the table, not under the table.

**House maid:** But it's the only place I have reception.

**Thorn:** I found it in the toilet.

**Father:** Rose darling you're absolutely right. I've been a damn **fool**. I've been an absolutely **frightful** fucking **cunt** and I do apologize. Everybody let's **stack** our phones on the table. Come on, stack them up in the center of the table. Now nobody even *looks* at their telephone until we have had a nice family breakfast.

**Rose:** Don't answer it! Nobody answer it!

**Father:** But what if it's an important call?

**Rose:** They'll call back!

**Petal:** But I think it's for me! It's *my* ring!

**Granny:** It's everyone's ring....it's *the* ring.

**Rose:** You see? It's over. There was no crisis, no casualties, no issue gone unresolved.

**Butler:** A Telegram your Lordship. Hello? Stop. Is anyone there? Stop. Huge crisis, many casualties, big problems. Why aren't you picking up? Stop. Signed: The Titanic.

**Rose:** Oh, bloody hell.

**Butler:** To hear this message again say « one ».

**Father:** One.

### Vocabulary continued...

- **occupy** - fill or preoccupy (the mind)
- **awkward** - causing or feeling uneasy embarrassment or inconvenience
- **multi-task** - do more than one thing at the same time (usually in an office work situation)
- **disgraceful** - shockingly unacceptable
- **fool** - a person who acts unwisely or imprudently; a silly person
- **frightful** - used for emphasis, especially of something bad
- **cunt** - an unpleasant or stupid person
- **stack** - arrange (a number of things) in a pile, typically a neat one

### Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.