

Real Talk #038 – How to choose a cell phone plan

Episode description

Living in a foreign country and need to buy a new phone or sign up for a phone plan? Then click on this episode straight away! In this Real Talk episode, Andrew and Suzanne introduce useful cell phone and cell phone plan–related vocabulary.

Fun fact

Did you know that cell phones can have up to 18 times more bacteria than toilet handles? So make sure you are disinfecting your phone regularly and, please, don't use your phone while in the bathroom!

Expressions included in the study guide

- To win [someone] over
- Unlocked
- Pay-as-you-go/prepaid
- To be tied down
- Bundle
- Month-to-month
- Carrier



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript.

Andrew: You're listening to the Culips English Podcast. To download the study guide for this episode, which includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz, visit our website, Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Andrew: Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Andrew: Hi everyone. Welcome back to Real Talk by Culips, the series where we teach you the English expressions you need to know for real-world situations. And I'm joined today by Suzanne. Hello, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hey, Andrew. How's it going?

Andrew: I'm doing really well. Suzanne, today we are going to teach all of our listeners some phrases and expressions they can use when they are shopping for a new phone and a new cell phone plan.

Suzanne: Oh, that's good. That's a really important topic, for sure.

Andrew: It can be difficult. There's so many options and configurations to the different cell phone plans out there, so I think this will be a really important episode for a lot of people.

Suzanne: Oh yeah.

Andrew: Before we start today, though, I do wanna remind everyone that there's a study guide for this episode available on Culips.com. It includes the transcript, some detailed explanations of the vocabulary that you'll hear us use here today, some real-life examples, and a quiz. So check out the study guide, which you can download from our website, Culips.com.

Andrew: OK, so today we're going to learn what phrases and expressions you might likely come across when shopping for a new cell phone plan.

Suzanne: And honestly, right, Andrew, I mean, cell phones are kind of an essential item these days, and not just any old cell phone. I mean, most people have smartphones.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. I don't think there's too many people out there walking around with just a basic old mobile phone, right? Almost everybody uses a smartphone these days. Even my parents, they both have smartphones and elementary school children, I've even seen walking around with smartphones. So it's a really essential item for life these days, I agree.

Suzanne: Yeah, I know. I feel like they're mini computers, they're GPS, you know? They're kind of there for us in many, many different ways. Organizing the wine we drink and the video chats, you know?

Andrew: You're totally right. I use my phone for absolutely everything, and I think I would have a really hard time living without it. I use it for directions, for finding what time the bus comes to my bus stop, for looking up words in the dictionary, taking pictures, recording audio, watching YouTube. You name it, I use my phone for it, so it is essential. By the way, Suzanne, are you an Android or an iPhone person?

Suzanne: I'm an iPhone person.

Andrew: Me too. I'm an iPhoneer.

Suzanne: I think I remember you being an Android person, though, for a bit. I think you had an iPhone and, correct me if I'm wrong, I thought you had an iPhone and then switched for a minute. Is that right?

Andrew: Opposite. I had an Android and then I switched to iPhone. So, yeah, I ... I guess Apple **won me over** and I used to have an Android, for years and years I did, but over the last 2 years, I've been using an iPhone. So I made the switch.

Suzanne: I know, and it's, it's hard to keep up, right? And that's why it's important to know how to change your plan or change your phone, because they are always coming out with new ones. They're always making them better and better—more complicated, I should say.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Totally. And there are also a variety of different plans you can get at the cell phone store, right? Depending on your budget or how much you use your phone and also your lifestyle. So I think today what we'll do, everyone, is listen to some dialogue examples between a customer and a service representative in a cell phone store. And we'll listen to these examples and learn about the type of expressions you can use when you wanna purchase a new phone and sign up for a new cell phone plan. We have three different conversation examples to listen to today and, Suzanne, I think we should just get right to it and listen to the first conversation example.

Suzanne: All right. Let's do it.

Customer: Hi, I'm interested in signing up for a new phone plan.

Service representative: New phone plan. OK, so you already have a phone. Is your phone **unlocked**?

Customer: Yes. It is.

Service representative: OK, great. And are you interested in a contract plan or **pay-as-you-go**?

Customer: Well, I want something with unlimited data, if possible, unlimited texts, and unlimited calls.

Service representative: OK, unlimited data, texting, and calling. In that case, I recommend our 2-year service plan. We offer exactly what you want, unlimited data, texting, and calling for \$79 a month.

Andrew: All right, Sue, so in that conversation, we just heard a customer ask a service representative about a new cell phone plan. And the first thing that the service rep at the cell phone store asked the customer was if her phone was **unlocked**.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: **Unlocked**. So this is a very important word to know when talking about cell phones.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: **Unlocked**, this means that your phone isn't **tied down** to one service provider, right? It is available to be used with any service provider that you want.

Suzanne: Right. So you're not locked into, you know, one company. It's kind of a ... Universal. You're able to kind of go and put in a different SIM card or, you know, use a different network.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Sometimes ... We'll use Canada as an example here. In Canada, we have what? Bell, Rogers, TELUS, these are some of the big ...

Suzanne: Videotron.

Andrew: Videotron ... Some of the big mobile telecom companies. And if you buy a new phone and sign up for a contract with one of these providers, sometimes they will lock the phone to their service. So you can't take that phone and go to a competing company and use that phone with their service. They want to keep you as a customer, so they lock your phone to their network.

Suzanne: Right.

Andrew: However, there are also **unlocked** phones, too, like, you know, if you're using an iPhone and you buy the iPhone directly from the Apple Store, then it will probably be **unlocked**, right? You could use it with any network that you choose to.

Suzanne: Yeah, it's more expensive that way because you're getting the benefit of changing your provider wherever you go, maybe even for a better deal. So usually an **unlocked** phone is more flexible and more expensive.

Andrew: Exactly. And the next key expression we heard in this conversation was a contract plan or **pay-as-you-go**. The service rep asked the customer, "Are you interested in a contract plan or **pay-as-you-go**?" So I think a contract is easy for everyone to understand. You sign an agreement with the service provider for, it's usually 2 or 3 years these days.

Suzanne: That's true.

Andrew: Long contract, right?

Suzanne: It used to be 1 year, right? Now it's more.

Andrew: Yeah, now it's more. And this means that you pay a set amount of money each month. But what about **pay-as-you-go**? This might be new to some of our listeners. What does that mean, **pay-as-you-go**?

Suzanne: Well, again, this allows you a little bit more flexibility. So you are paying each month, like **month-to-month**. So maybe you're an exchange student and you're living in Canada for only 3 months, or 4 months for a semester, and you need a local phone number and a local phone. If you get a **pay-as-you-go** plan, then you can pay for 4 months or 1 month at a time until you reach your 4 months and then you can leave without having a contract to break and maybe an extra fee to pay by breaking that long-term contract.

Andrew: So the **pay-as-you-go** plan gives you more flexibility. You're not locked into a contract and usually what you do with **pay-as-you-go** is you buy a certain amount of credit, like \$50's worth of talk time. So maybe \$50 will give you, I have no idea these days, maybe 1000 minutes of talk time, and once you've talked for 1000 minutes, your phone will stop working. You need to buy more credit, more talk time from the cell phone store to be able to use your phone. And, actually, if I recall correctly, last time I lived in Canada, this is what I used was a **pay-as-you-go** plan, because I was a poor student and I couldn't afford the expensive cell phone plans that they had in Canada. Canadian cell phones are famous for being very, very expensive, aren't they? The cell phone plans.

Suzanne: Yeah. It's a lot more than I paid in the US. And in the US, I actually got unlimited data, unlimited texting and calling and international calling and stuff for a lot less than I pay here.

Andrew: Yeah, in Korea, it's the same way. I can get a really nice cell phone plan in Korea for not too expensive, but if I had the same plan back in Canada, I'd probably be paying, like, over a \$100 a month, easily.

Suzanne: Yeah, that's crazy.

Andrew: It's ridiculous. Canada is not a good country for cell phones.

Suzanne: No, and it's hard to find unlimited plans. It's very expensive to find unlimited service.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Unfortunately. Suzanne, what's your data plan like? How much data do you get per month?

Suzanne: Actually, I think I have 8 GB, which is a lot. So I don't usually go over that. But there are occasions when my phone, for example, was being tricky and it wasn't going onto my home Wi-Fi and so all of my podcasts were being downloaded on my data instead of my home Wi-Fi service and I went over, big time, a couple times.

Andrew: Oh no.

Suzanne: Until I realized that I was on the wrong setting and then it was better. But I had to pay extra a few months.

Andrew: Oh no. Yeah, you gotta be careful with that. I've had that happen to me before too, yeah.

Suzanne: They get you, those iPhones. There's a tricky little setting on there, I feel.

Andrew: Yeah, you have to definitely make sure that all of the correct boxes are checked in your podcasting application so you're not downloading on your data and only using Wi-Fi to download podcasts because podcasts, those files can be huge, right?

Suzanne: Oh yeah.

Andrew: They can be quite big. So, listeners, I hope you are listening to us right now, on Wi-Fi.

Suzanne: Download at home before you go out and walk the dog.

Andrew: Agreed, agreed. Let's listen to the second example conversation for today's episode.

Suzanne: OK, great.

Service representative: How can I help you today?

Customer: Hi, I just moved here. I'll be staying for, I think, the next 6 months and I'm looking to buy a SIM card and a plan for my phone.

Service representative: OK, since you're only here for 6 months, you're eligible for our contract-free **pay-as-you-go** phone plan.

Customer: Oh. What is the cheapest plan I can get?

Service representative: Well, it depends on your needs. If you want unlimited data, texts, or calls, you can buy a **month-to-month** service plan. But if you don't use your phone that often, you can buy a **prepaid bundle** of 2, 5, or 10 GB of data with texts and calls paid by the minute.

Customer: I think I'll go with the **prepaid** plan with 5 GB of data, texts, and calls. Thanks.

Andrew: All right, in this conversation, we heard, again, a customer talking with a service representative in a cell phone shop, a cell phone store. And this customer had just moved to the area and is only staying around for 6 months. So maybe she's a foreign exchange student or traveller, something like this. And so, because she's just in the area for a short time, she's eligible, which means she is able, to get a contract-free **pay-as-you-go** phone plan. And, Suzanne, we just kind of talked about this, **pay-as-you-go** contract free plan, right?

Suzanne: Yeah, exactly.

Andrew: And so the service rep asks her what kind of plan she wants depending on her habits, her cell phone habits, and she decides to go with a **prepaid** plan with 5 GB of data, texting, and calling. And this is similar to what we just mentioned, but a **prepay** plan is a key expression that our listeners should know, Suzanne, I think. And this is the same as **pay-as-you-go** and it means you pay first and then you receive credit to use on your phone.

Suzanne: Yeah, it's kind of like if you've ever used, like, a calling card, you know? You purchase a certain amount before and then, once it's up, you have to buy another one. I think something interesting, too, to add here, Andrew, is the service rep here talks about a **prepaid bundle**. Because you might also hear the service person say a **bundle**, which, in this case or in most cases, means that you're paying for a certain amount of data, texting, and calling. So that's kind of like a **bundle** or a package in your plan, not just calling or not just texting.

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: Because we use smartphones these days and our phone can do different things. Then we have different components that we pay for and, when we put it together, people can call it a **bundle**.

Andrew: Yeah, you'll hear this expression used in lots of different services you can buy, right? Maybe your home phone also might be **bundled** with your cable TV or your internet.

Suzanne: Yeah, that's how mine is. Yes.

Andrew: Right, you can get a kind of entertainment **bundle** for your house or other services on the internet, too. I've seen you can sign up for websites and receive a **bundle**, maybe, for example, Adobe. If you buy Photoshop, you can also **bundle** it with other programs, too. So, like, maybe Illustrator or Premiere, you can get all of these software packages **bundled** together. I know we use that here at Culips, we have an Adobe **bundle** that we buy from Adobe.

Suzanne: And I think you might also use this kind of template or these key expressions if you live somewhere where the plans are maybe a little more expensive. For example, here in Canada, we have a tendency, we as in all the people here, have a tendency to try to change our plans and **bundles** and move to different **carriers** and use those different prices against the other companies to get a better deal. Like you're kind of bargain shopping and comparing your deals, maybe using it as leverage, like, "Hey, this company is only charging me \$40 a month." "Oh, really? Well, if you sign up for a **bundle** with your internet, we'll let you have it for 40 a month." So this is used quite often here in Canada, for example.

Andrew: Absolutely. And, Sue, there's one more expression that we heard in this conversation I wanna point out.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: This is really rich conversation, lots of interesting expressions in this one. **Month-to-month**, OK? The service rep said you can buy a **month-to-month** service plan. And so what this means is it's a contract, but it's renewed every month. It's only a month-long contract, so it's not for 24 months or 36 months. It's just for 1 month and then you have the option to renew at the end of the month. And you'll also hear **month-to-month** commonly used when talking about renting apartments.

Suzanne: Yes. I was just going to say that, yeah.

Andrew: Yeah. In Canada, the basic apartment contract length is 1 year and then, usually after 1 year, you go on a **month-to-month** contract with your landlord. And so both parties have the option at anytime to end the business agreement, right? And that it's just renewed automatically on a 1-month period after that initial contract length. So you can also use **month-to-month** to talk about different cell phone plans, too, that are just short little 1-month length agreements.

Suzanne: Yeah, that's ... Sometimes it's really nice because you're not **tied down**, you have freedom.

Andrew: Right, you have the freedom if you see a better deal at a different company, you can move your business to a different company. So I think a lot of people prefer a **month-to-month** plan over, you know, a 36-month contract.

Suzanne: Yeah. I just want to point out one more thing about the pronunciation of a word that you and I have been actually pronouncing differently. The word data, or data, we've used it interchangeably in this episode and they are actually both correct. They're just different ways of saying them. So, for example, in Canada and in the US, we might have different pronunciations for the same word, like process and process. They're both correct. They're just like a different dialect. So you can say data and you can say data. It's like tomato, tomato. Nope, they're interchangeable, no one will question it.

Andrew: I think I usually say data, but I also might say data, depending on how I feel in the moment. I don't know. It might also be what other speakers around me are saying, right? Sue, if you keep saying data, data, data, then maybe I will start saying data instead of data.

Suzanne: I'm influencing you. You know what's funny? I think when I'm talking about collecting data for research I say data, but when I talk about my phone, I say data. I don't know why, it's so weird.

Andrew: Interesting. It's so weird. Let's listen to our third and final conversation example for this episode.

Customer: Hi, is it possible to buy a phone plan without buying a new phone?

Service representative: It depends. Is your phone **unlocked**?

Customer: I'm not sure.

Service representative: OK, let me check. Ah, I'm sorry, but it looks like your phone is not **unlocked**. So you can only use this phone with the **carrier** that you bought it from.

Customer: Oh, OK. Well, thank you for your help.

Service representative: Yeah, no problem. And if you're interested in getting a cheaper phone plan, then I recommend buying an **unlocked** phone or asking about **prepaid** plans with your current provider.

Customer: OK, thanks.

Andrew: All right. So in this conversation, again, we heard a service representative and a customer talking at a cell phone store. And this time, the customer wanted to get a new cell phone plan, but couldn't because her cell phone was locked. And I think the key vocabulary from this conversation was the word **carrier**, **carrier**. What is a cell phone **carrier** or a service **carrier**?

Suzanne: Yeah, and this is not a case that you keep your phone in. This is your provider, your network provider, right? So they are the **carrier** or the holder of the network that you are paying for. So if you have Verizon or you have Bell or Fido.

Andrew: Fido, yeah, in Canada, we have Bell, TELUS, Fido, Rogers. And in the States, what do you have? AT&T, Sprint.

Suzanne: Yeah, we have some weird stuff now, too.

Andrew: Verizon.

Suzanne: Verizon. Um. Yeah, I think you named them, the main ones. I think there's also, there's one I can't remember. It's been a while. And they have some new ones that are, like, smaller.

Andrew: Right, yeah. It's the case in Canada, too, you have these regional **carriers**.

Suzanne: Yeah. That's what a **carrier** is, it's really your cell phone company.

Andrew: Exactly. Exactly, so your **carrier** is your cell phone company. And finally, Sue, I just wanna point out one last thing that our listeners may be confused about. We've been using the word cell phone throughout this episode to talk about smartphones, right?

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: Like when we, when we say cell phone, we're not talking about the old-style flip phone, we really just use the word cell phone to talk about any kind of mobile phone. And these days, mobile phones are all smartphones. So, yeah, guys, don't be confused, you don't need to use the word smartphone to talk about smartphones. You can also use cell phone and everybody will know that you're talking about a modern, current smartphone.

Suzanne: Yeah. Yeah. Some people say cellular or my mobile.

Andrew: Yeah, my students at the university, they always say smartphone, but I think this is one of the things they get confused about, because English speakers, we, at least personally, I say cell phone over smartphone most of the time.

Suzanne: Me too, yeah.

Andrew: Yeah. It just feels more comfortable. I'm more used to it, I've been using the word cell phone for longer than smartphone, so cell phone is kind of the default word that I use.

Suzanne: I'm with you. Now we don't even have a home phone, so we just call it my phone.

Andrew: Or phone, right? Yeah, exactly. Exactly, my phone.

Andrew: Well, thank you for listening, everyone. I think we'll wrap it up here. We definitely hope that you learned some important vocabulary for signing up for a different cell phone plan or for talking about cell phones in English.

Suzanne: And you can always visit our website, Culips.com, if you wanna get the transcript and practice exercises for this episode. Check out the website to download the study guide, right? The study guide is the best way to study with Culips.

Andrew: Totally. And if you're on social media, you can follow us on Facebook or Instagram, Twitter or YouTube and stay up to date with all of the news here at Culips.

Andrew: Thanks for listening, everyone. We will be back soon with a brand-new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Suzanne: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

To win [someone] over

Phrasal verb

To win [someone] over is to gain someone's support or agreement in a matter, especially when that person disagreed with you in the past. In other words, if you are able to convince someone that your opinion or idea is a good one, then you have **won that person over**; they have changed to your way of thinking.

In this episode, Andrew says that Apple **won him over**. For years, he used an Android phone, but he was convinced to switch over to the iPhone—it **won him over**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to win [someone] over**:

Frank: Hey, does your mother-in-law still hate you?

Chris: Ugh, yes. She'll never accept that I'm not the good Jewish son-in-law she dreamed of for her daughter.

Frank: Have you tried getting her to warm up to you?

Chris: Yeah, I've tried everything to **win her over**! I've bought her expensive gifts; I've offered to clean the dishes every time we visit; I've even learned all these Jewish traditions to impress her. I'm not sure what else to try.

Frank: Maybe just accept defeat?

Lisbeth: So did you **win over your parents** yet? Can you come to Mexico for spring break?

Sally: Not yet, but I'm working on it. I've been doing all the chores around the house, I got an A+ on my last test, and I've been giving off the responsible vibes whenever I'm in their presence.

Lisbeth: It sucks your parents have to be so strict.

Sally: Yeah. They're not like your parents, who leave you home alone for days on end and expect you to fend for yourself!

Lisbeth: Yeah, but my parents are old. They just want to enjoy their retirement.

Unlocked Adjective

If a phone is **unlocked**, then it is not linked to a specific cell phone provider and can be used to get a phone plan with any service provider from any country. **Unlocked** phones are especially useful when travelling between countries and using a variety of different SIM cards for the same phone.

Here's one more example with **unlocked**:

Jasper: Dude, how do I find out if my phone is **unlocked** or not?

Bobby: Why do you wanna know?

Jasper: I'm studying abroad in Spain this summer and I read online somewhere that if I wanna get a phone plan, my phone needs to be **unlocked**.

Bobby: Oh, that makes sense. Who's your provider?

Jasper: Verizon

Bobby: Then if I were you, I would go to the Verizon store and ask them to check if your phone is **unlocked** or not.

Jasper: Oh, yeah, that makes sense. Thanks, bro. I'll go this afternoon.

Pay-as-you-go/prepaid

Adjective

Pay-as-you-go and **prepaid** phone plans are the most flexible of phone plans available. They are often more expensive per gigabyte of data and per minute of calling, but cheaper in that the bill reflects how much you use the phone. Therefore, if you only use your phone a bit, the cost will be small, but if you use your phone a lot, the cost will be high.

This kind of phone plan is really useful for those who use their phone infrequently or only plan on staying in a certain country for a short period of time before moving on.

Here's one more example with **pay-as-you-go/prepaid**:

Minji: How's life going in Scotland?

Eunji: It's going well, but it is so hard to understand their accents here. It's nothing like what we learned in school.

Minji: It'll be so funny if you come home with a Scottish accent. Did you get a phone plan yet? Did you decide on a **pay-as-you-go** plan, or did you get a **prepaid** one?

Eunji: Yeah, I got a **prepaid** plan, since I'm only gonna be here for 5 more months.

Minji: Ugh, 5 more months! Life is so boring here without you. That seems like forever!

Eunji: I'll be back before you know it. Don't be sad.

To be tied down

Phrasal verb

To be tied down is to have one's freedom limited due to responsibilities or relationships. For example, a single person can go wherever they want and date whomever they'd like, but a married person is **tied down**; they are not free to go where they please or date whomever they please. Instead, they must consult their partner before moving somewhere else and they are not usually free to date around.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be tied down**:

Roger: Sometimes I wish I was back in my 20s.

Frankie: Don't we all?

Roger: Yeah, back then I could go anywhere I wanted whenever I wanted. I wasn't **tied down** by a house, a family, and bills.

Frankie: At least we've got Friday night poker night, right?

Roger: Yeah, we do. I'll never get tired of conning you out of all your money.

Taegyeong: Aren't you sick of being single?

Souad: Nope. I love being free as a bird. If I'm not **tied down**, I can do whatever I want.

Taegyeong: Like what?

Souad: Well, I'm going on a back-packing trip for 2 weeks next month, I don't have to clean my house if I don't want to, and I don't have to cook for anyone but me.

Taegyeong: But aren't you lonely?

Souad: Eh, loneliness is just a symptom of boredom and a lack of imagination.

Bundle

Noun or verb

A **bundle** is a collection of things all grouped or tied together as one package. This can be a physical thing like a **bundle** of sticks, which is literally a bunch of sticks bound together, or it could be something non-tangible like an internet and cable **bundle**, when services we want are grouped together into one plan.

Here's one more example with **bundle**:

Hera: Do you wanna hear about this sweet deal I got yesterday?

Greta: Totally.

Hera: I needed to buy a new bike, so I went to the bike shop and they were having a special deal. Every bike purchase came **bundled** with a bike lock, bike reflector, and seat cushion.

Greta: Wow, that really is a great deal! Did you get a new helmet, too?

Hera: Yeah, that was extra. I got this cool polka-dot covered one.

Month-to-month Adjective

Month-to-month is a time adjective that describes how often something occurs. For example, a **month-to-month** phone contract is a contract that lasts the period of 1 month and has the possibility of renewal each month. A **month-to-month** plan has good and bad points compared to a yearly plan. Yearly plans are often cheaper overall, but there is a penalty for cancelling a yearly plan early, while a **month-to-month** plan has no penalty.

This style of phrase can be used with many different time measurements; for example, day to day can be used as a substitute for the word daily. Just remember that **month-to-month** is most often used in relation to contracts, rents, or leases.

Here's one more example with **month-to-month**:

Janet: So how's life abroad? Are you homesick yet?

Bethany: I'm all right, but housing stuff was super stressful last week.

Janet: Really? Is it a lot different from here?

Bethany: Yeah. You know how back home there are a lot of options for renting a place **month-to-month**?

Janet: Yeah, so?

Bethany: Well, here there are, like, no options for **month-to-month** renting, or the places that allow it are really tiny and depressing.

Janet: That sucks. But you're only staying 6 months, so what did you end up doing?

Bethany: Luckily I found a girl who had to leave her yearly contract early, so I took over the remainder of her lease.

Carrier

Noun

A **carrier** or more specifically a **mobile carrier** is a wireless service provider that provides cellular connectivity to cell phones and tablets. Without a **mobile carrier**, cell phones and tablets can only function by using apps accessible through Wi-Fi. **Mobile carriers** enable customers to procure an individual phone number, make calls anytime, anywhere, and, with data plans, to access the internet outside of public Wi-Fi zones.

Here's one more example with **carrier**:

Ginny: I'm thinking about changing my **mobile carrier** when this contract is up next month. Got any recommendations?

Taylor: You should totally switch to my **carrier**. The phones I purchase from their stores are always unlocked and it's well-priced. I can use limited texting and data while travelling abroad, AND we get movie ticket discounts every month.

Ginny: Dude! I'm so jealous. I'm lucky if I even have cell service half the time. I am totally switching to your **carrier** next month.

Taylor: Make sure to write me as a referral on the application form! We can both get a discount.

Ginny: Really? Sweet!

Quiz

1. Which item is NOT usually sold in a bundle?

- a) cell phone services
- b) software suites
- c) cable TV options
- d) movie tickets

2. True or false? There are two different ways to pronounce the word data.

- a) true
- b) false

3. Which item is NOT usually paid through a month-to-month contract?

- a) rental apartment
- b) groceries
- c) phone plan
- d) leased car

4. Which phone plan allows you to pay just as much as you use the phone?

- a) part-pay
- b) before pay
- c) pay-as-you-go
- d) payback

5. Which is a synonym for the phrasal verb win over?

- a) game over
- b) sore loser
- c) beat
- d) convince

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Which cell phone provider do you use? Do you like them?
2. What is the average cost of a cell phone plan in your country? What does it include?
3. Do you prefer iOS or Android phones? Why?
4. Do you have a yearly plan or a pay-as-you-go plan?
5. What is one thing you wish you could change about your cell phone or cell phone plan?

Quiz Answers

1.d 2.a 3.b 4.c 5.d

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Suzanne Cerreta

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free, *Step On* by Jahzzar

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