

Smartphones, nowadays, everyone has one or at least wants one. All of my friends have one, my teachers have them, and without a doubt, almost everyone in the audience here today has a smartphone. Everywhere I look, someone is always using a smartphone. Why is this? Smartphones have the capability to do almost anything! I guess that's why they call them "smartphones". They can send messages. "Oh, my gosh! Arisa broke up with Kevin"! They can keep our schedule. Beep-beep-beep. Sunday, May 7th, 2 p.m., PTA cleaning. Smartphones can even talk! How do you say "Issogashi" in English? "Issogashiwa, eigo de, "busy" desu. The smartphone's technology is supposed to make our lives more convenient and make it easier for us to communicate. However, just like alcohol, drugs, and gambling, smartphones have become an addiction. Now, I would like to demonstrate why I feel this way.

Scenario one. Hum, hum, hum, crash! According to the National Highway Traffic Association, every year, over 3,600 people are killed because of someone using a cell phone while driving. In fact, on average, one out of five adult drivers is guilty of this. You can stand on any corner and easily see it happening.

Scenario two. Yumi, it's almost dinner time. OK, mom. I'm doing my homework. I'll be there shortly. Now, most of you here today are adults and find it hard to believe that your children would lie to you. Well, guess what? They do! Most kids spend more time on their cell phones than studying. Many of my friends used to always get good grades, but since they got a smartphone, their grades have gone down, they often get in trouble for not doing their homework, and some of them were even stupid enough to use their cell phone during class and got caught.

Scenario three. "Ladies and gentlemen, please be sure to switch off your cell phones".

Come on, don't tell me that you have never experienced someone's phone ringing during a movie, at a PTA meeting, or even during a speech contest? There are signs posted everywhere! It is even announced, but still, it happens. Why is this? I'll tell you why. It is because technology, such as smartphones, cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. Also, it is because smartphones do not have feelings. But mainly it is because smartphones are only as smart as the person using them.

Now, let me tell you what I think would be the perfect smartphone. The perfect smartphone would tell drivers, "Hey, what you're doing is against the law. You're going to kill someone". The perfect smartphone would say, "Hey, inconsiderate, your Starbuck's Coffee has been empty for the last forty five minutes and someone else wants to sit here"! The perfect smartphone would say, "Yumi, I will not let you access my data until all of your homework is complete. Or how about, Yumi, your mom loves you very much. You shouldn't lie to her about your homework".

Wouldn't smartphones be great if, beep beep beep, beep beep beep. Sorry, looks like time is up. Get my point?