

Do you use a smartphone for communication? I don't, because I don't have a smartphone. The only way I can communicate with my friends is face-to-face. Last year I felt lonely many times because of it.

I really wanted to have a smartphone, and finally, I said to my parents honestly, "Please buy me a smartphone."

"I can't join the class LINE group."

"I want to be a member of the LINE group." "I can't talk about popular Youtubers."

"Without a smartphone, I won't be able to build relationships with my classmates." Then, my parents said to me,

"You will not be able to control yourself. Your smartphone eats into your precious time. We want you to spend your time trying many things, reading, and doing things to learn something."

The reason my parents said this was because of something that happened when I was younger. I went to a language school in the Philippines. I couldn't make friends because I couldn't speak English. So, I installed a game on my mother's smartphone without permission. And I enjoyed communicating with people from different countries through playing the game. However, after returning to Japan, I continued to play the game and used lots of money in the game. My parents were upset with me when they found out.

Because of this, my parents decided not to buy me a smartphone until I was in high school. So, no matter how many times I asked them to buy me a smartphone, they wouldn't. I thought, "If I don't have a smartphone now, I won't be able to get along with my classmates." This made me very sad.

However, I learned that this was wrong. When I became the leader of the newspaper committee, I found that talking face to face with committee members made discussions much better. We got greater ideas. I was impressed that I understood their feelings better through their facial expressions and intonation. I learned that by being in the same place at the same time, we could communicate more smoothly and build better relationships.

Now I talk to my classmates in a positive way. Talking with my classmates is more fun than before. I can enjoy talking about Youtubers because my friends tell me about them. When I say "I don't know," my friends explain to me kindly.

I think I had a barrier that said "Don't talk to me because I don't have a smartphone. I don't have anything to talk about with you." I was running away from making friends because I didn't have a smartphone. I thought "My classmates won't understand me," and I didn't try to talk to them. But now it's different. Now I know face-to-face communication is wonderful. I believe that spending time together and communicating face-to-face with everyone is important. I will enjoy the rest of my junior high school life without a smartphone.

Finally, I have to ask myself. Can I control myself in high school? The answer is maybe, "Yes!"

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Face-to-Face