

# Trend Task: Changes over Time



Approach: One to one  
Focus: Evaluating decisions, strategies, outcomes and consequences  
Resources: 2 pictures

Year: 4 & 8

## Questions / instructions:

Telephones have changed a lot over time.  
Here are some pictures of different telephones.

Show picture of different phones.

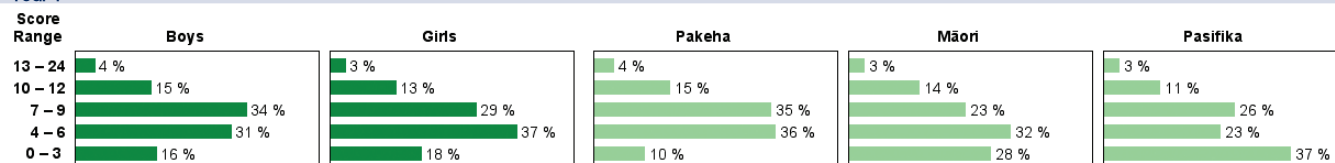
Changes over Time



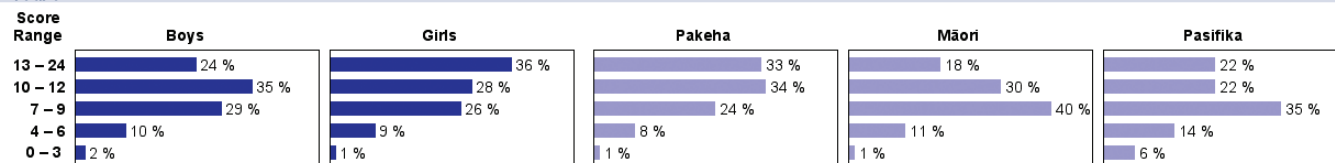
	% response 2008 ('04)			% response 2008 ('04)	
	year 4	year 8		year 4	year 8
1. Phones and people's lives have changed a lot over time. Tell me about how the technology used in phones has changed.			4. What are some of the not so good things about cell phones?		
<b>Changes mentioned:</b>			people expect you to be available all the time	1 (3)	3 (2)
lighter/smaller/more portable	45 (46)	70 (79)	health dangers (distraction when driving, electromagnetic radiation, etc)	8 (5)	22 (16)
change from cord handsets to cordless handsets	40 (35)	64 (71)	cost (of instrument and use)	28 (30)	41 (60)
change from landline unit to cellular	32 (31)	52 (54)	text bullying	6 (3)	23 (8)
<b>Additional efficiencies:</b>			phone coverage (poor or unavailable in some areas)	6 (8)	18 (11)
(e.g. push buttons, redial, stored numbers)	78 (76)	84 (78)	battery (running low/recharging/battery life)	38 (35)	36 (47)
<b>Non-telephone functions:</b>			5. Why do the people who design and make phones always want to have new ideas?		
(e.g. texting, photos, e-mail, games)	37 (41)	57 (63)	to make money/improve market share	32 (26)	55 (69)
2. How have the changes in telephones changed how people use them?			to improve services for people	16 (23)	40 (32)
able to use them in wider range of places	35 (39)	63 (62)	<b>Overall, how well did student understand and explain?</b>		
able to be contacted a higher proportion of the time/more quickly	4 (3)	19 (21)	very well	2 (0)	10 (13)
texting has partially replaced phoning, e-mail, passing notes	15 (9)	35 (36)	quite well	10 (8)	31 (32)
used for entertainment, visual communication	8 (6)	14 (23)	moderately well	36 (34)	44 (40)
Now let's think just about cell phones.			poorly	52 (58)	16 (15)
<b>Show cell phone picture.</b>			<b>Total score:</b>		
[Same image as cell phone at right above]			13-24	3 (3)	30 (33)
3. What are the good things about cell phones?			10-12	14 (9)	32 (33)
take them with you and use them just about everywhere	59 (54)	75 (83)	7-9	32 (29)	28 (23)
use in safety/security situations	11 (14)	24 (22)	4-6	34 (45)	9 (11)
texting and e-mail capabilities	55 (48)	77 (68)	0-3	17 (13)	2 (1)
entertainment device	50 (50)	53 (51)			

## Subgroup Analyses:

### Year 4



### Year 8



## Commentary:

Most students were able to describe how phones have changed over time and identify positive and negative aspects of cell phones. Strong growth was seen from year 4 to year 8. It is interesting to note that, at year 8, the number of students seeing "text bullying" as a not so good thing about cell phones rose from 8% in 2004 to 23% in 2008. There was little change overall from 2004, and modest gender differences favouring girls.