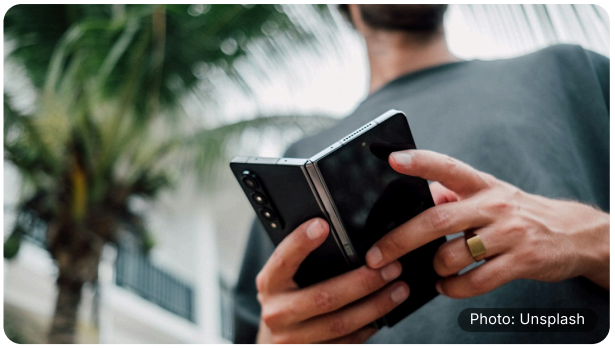
Apple unveils £1,999 folding iPhone Duo

LEVEL B1


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. What features do you want in your next phone?
2. Have you ever tried a folding phone? What was it like?
3. Do you trust tech companies to keep your data private? Why or why not?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

gamble
a risky decision that could bring a big win or a big loss

foldable
able to bend or close like a book without breaking

launch
to introduce a new product to the public

headquarters
the main office of a company or organisation

analyst
a person who studies markets and gives expert opinions

hurdle
a difficulty that must be overcome

portfolio
all the products or services a company offers

transcribe
to write down spoken words as text

III. READING

Apple has launched its most expensive iPhone yet, a foldable, the iPhone Duo, priced from £1,999. The move is a gamble by new boss John Ternus. Apple unveiled it at its California headquarters after rivals like Samsung and Huawei. The Duo took several years to develop.

Unfolded, it looks like a small iPad; folded, it is a wider iPhone. In the US, prices start at $1,999 and can reach $3,200. Analysts say a key hurdle is China, where Huawei leads. Some analysts say the launch could refresh the iPhone portfolio, but others warn it may stay a costly niche.

Foldables are about 2% of smartphone sales and may reach only 4% over the next decade, one firm says. Apple also previewed Siri AI, which can search messages, answer queries and transcribe notes; many tasks run on the device to keep data private.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Apple's new boss starts with big gamble on...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the new Apple boss behind the iPhone Duo?
2. Where was the iPhone Duo unveiled?
3. How long did Apple spend developing the iPhone Duo?
4. What share of smartphone sales do foldables have now, according to the text?
5. What can Siri AI do that was highlighted at the event?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is a folding phone worth £1,999 to you? Why or why not?
2. Why might Apple enter a market late instead of first?
3. What hurdles could stop people switching to foldables?
4. How much privacy do you expect from phone assistants?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Connecting words

Connecting words link ideas: show reason, result or contrast. Use because for reasons, so for results, and although/but for contrast.

"Some buyers hesitated, **so** *they waited to decide."*

"Analysts warned it could stay niche, **although** *some were hopeful."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

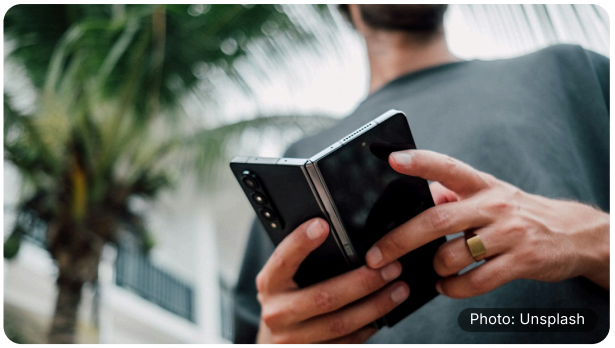
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The phone is pricey, (so / because) many wait to buy it. _____
2. Some say it will sell, (because / although) demand is low. _____
3. Siri runs on the device, (but / so) data stays private. _____
4. Apple may struggle in China (so / because) Huawei leads there. _____
5. Some analysts praise it, (but / so) others warn it's niche. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: foldable, gamble, analyst, headquarters, hurdle, portfolio, transcribe, private.
- Run the reading: skim for gist, then scan for numbers (prices, years, percentages). Pair-check answers before a short class check.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise analysts' opposing views; others find the one contrast connector in the text (but) and say which two views it links.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick show of hands, then ask for one feature and one price limit from each side.
2. Board student ideas (quality, reliability, brand power). Push for one benefit and one risk for entering late.
3. Have groups list three hurdles, rank them, and suggest one way to reduce the top hurdle.
4. Offer short scenarios (lost phone, cloud backup). Ask who should access what and why.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, argue Duo vs classic iPhone; each side writes a 60-word closing statement.

Survey: Poll classmates on interest and price ceiling for foldables, then write a 50-word findings note.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

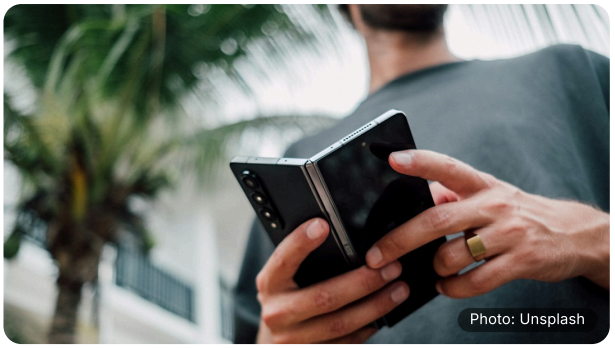
Grammar exercise: Connecting words

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the new Apple boss behind the iPhone Duo?
   John Ternus.
2. Where was the iPhone Duo unveiled?
   At Apple's California headquarters.
3. How long did Apple spend developing the iPhone Duo?
   Several years.
4. What share of smartphone sales do foldables have now, according to the text?
   About 2% of sales.
5. What can Siri AI do that was highlighted at the event?
   Search messages, answer queries, and transcribe notes.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Connecting words link ideas: show reason, result or contrast. Use because for reasons, so for results, and although/but for contrast. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Some buyers hesitated,* **so** *they waited to decide."*
>
> *"Analysts warned it could stay niche,* **although** *some were hopeful."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The phone is pricey, (so / because) many wait to buy it. **so**
2. Some say it will sell, (because / although) demand is low. **although**
3. Siri runs on the device, (but / so) data stays private. **so**
4. Apple may struggle in China (so / because) Huawei leads there. **because**
5. Some analysts praise it, (but / so) others warn it's niche. **but**