

- 請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

Vocabulary: Modern culture 词汇: 现代文化

Are you addicted to your smartphone? Do you check your **phablet** in the middle of the night? Do you **post** to social media as you stroll along the pavement?

If you do **the latter**, you would be called a ‘smombie’ in Germany. It’s a **portmanteau** word which combines ‘smartphone’ and ‘**zombie**’, and refers to the familiar sight of someone **pottering** along, eyes **glued to** the phone in their hand, **oblivious** to the world around them. The term was chosen as Youth Word of the Year in Germany in 2015.

Indeed, just as mobile phones have changed the way we communicate, they’ve also **enriched** the stock of slang that describes human behaviour.

Another such term is ‘phubbing’. Again, it’s a combination of two individual words, this time ‘phone’ and ‘**snubbing**’. Picture the scene: you’re out at a cafe with a friend, but instead of listening to your **scintillating** conversation, he’s **engrossed** in his mobile phone. **We’ve all been there.**

Then there’s a phrase which comes from Chinese: the ‘**bowed** head tribe’. This describes not a mere, singular smombie, but the **legions of** people we see stooped over mobile phones. And over in Japan, one blogger describes the groups of people dangerously traversing busy intersections as ‘dumbwalkers’, but who somehow manage to avoid crashing into each other.

While many of these terms are **light-hearted**, there’s a serious side. In the German city of Augsburg one phone user was killed after being hit by a tram as she crossed the road. It prompted authorities to install ground-level traffic lights for those looking down at their phones.

And the risks with phones don’t end there. The desire for increasingly daring selfies has led to the deaths of over 120 people since 2014. That’s more than have died from shark attacks.

It may come as no surprise to hear, therefore, that we’re more addicted to our phones than ever before, according to a survey in the UK by Deloitte. Phones are our cameras, our calendars and our windows into the constantly **updating** lives of friends across social media. Without our phones by our side, surely we’d **miss out** on all this fun? And yes, you guessed it, there’s a slang term for that **mentality** too: ‘fomo’, or the ‘fear of missing out’.

词汇表

phablet	平板手机
to post	(在网上) 发布
the latter	(上文提到的两者中的) 后者
portmanteau	组合的
zombie	僵尸
to potter	闲逛
to be glued to something	目不转睛地看
oblivious	(对周围发生的事) 毫无察觉的
to enrich	使充实
to snub	冷落
scintillating	妙趣横生的
engrossed	全神贯注的
we've all been there	我们都能感同身受, 我们都是过来人
bowed	弯腰的
legions of	数量庞大的、大批的 (人)
light-hearted	(风格、题材等) 轻松愉快的
to update	更新 (网上的内容)
to miss out	错过 (机会、好处、趣事)
mentality	心态, 心理

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is a 'smombie'?
2. Why have traffic lights been placed at ground level in Germany?
3. What does it mean if you 'phub' someone?
4. Which word means: 'photographs you take of yourself'?
5. True or false: 'Fomo' is a portmanteau word.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. He never listens to what I say. He's just _____ in his smartphone!

pottering	snubbing	phubbing	engrossed
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2. She said I had to choose between her and my friends. I chose _____.

the later	later	the latter	latter
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3. Mark wanders around like a zombie all day with his eyes _____ his smartphone.

glued to	glue to	glued	glued on
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4. Our CEO doesn't like to give serious speeches. They're always _____.

light-hearted	oblivious	daring	engrossing
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5. After working all night I felt like a _____ in the office today.

legion	phubber	zombie	smombie
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is a 'smombie'?

A 'smombie' is a 'smartphone zombie'. It's a slang term from Germany and it refers to people who walk around gazing at their smartphones.

2. Why have traffic lights been placed at ground level in Germany?

Traffic lights have been placed at ground level to attract the attention of those looking down at their phones, to minimise the risk of accidents.

3. What does it mean if you 'phub' someone?

It means you ignore someone because you are using your mobile phone.

4. Which word means: 'photographs you take of yourself'?

Selfies.

5. True or false: 'Fomo' is a portmanteau word.

False. 'Fomo' is an abbreviation of 'fear of missing out'.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. He never listens to what I say. He's just **engrossed** in his smartphone!

2. She said I had to choose between her and my friends. I chose **the latter**.

3. Mark wanders around like a zombie all day with his eyes **glued to** his smartphone.

4. Our CEO doesn't like to give serious speeches. They're always **light-hearted**.

5. After working all night I felt like a **zombie** in the office today.