

Tech Talk

Apple iPhone 6S

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Vocabulary & pronunciation study by Sue Thomas ©

Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*



It's the start of a new school year; millions of **kids** are on their way back to their lessons after the summer break. Autumn is also the time of year when Apple **strikes back against** its competitors! With its **keynote** presentation back in September and the recent **release** of new products, today's tech talk will concentrate on what's under the **bonnet** of the **brand new** iPhone: The iPhone 6S and 6S Plus.

As usual, the change in the "S" version isn't **visible** on the outside but the real change is on the inside and this time Apple has changed a lot of things. The screen is 4.7 inches with 750p resolution. The **firm** has also **upgraded** the iPhone with the fastest **chipset** yet on a mobile, the A9. Despite these notable **improvements**, there won't be much difference for the regular user.

The upgrade doesn't only concern the **processor** but also the camera. It has been upgraded from an 8 to a 12 **megapixel** for the normal camera and from 1.9 to a 5 megapixel for the facing camera. Two years ago Apple was the leader in this area, but the recent LG and Samsung phones have clearly **taken over**, making this upgrade **obligatory** to stay in the race.

The big news with this new phone is 3D Touch. Basically, the screen is now three **dimensional**, which means that you can **swipe** as before, but also "**poke**" the screen, thus opening "Quick Actions". These are ideal for moments like sending a new message or calling people. There is also the "pick and pop". You can now preview a conversation by gently putting pressure on the screen and opening the conversation by adding more pressure. It's not exactly a revolution, but this new technology will probably change things a lot in the future.

kids (n.) children

to strike back against (phrasal vb.) to attack someone who has criticised you

keynote (n.) most important thing

to release (vb.) to put on the market

bonnet (n.) the cover of an engine

brand new (exp.) completely new

firm (n.) company

to upgrade (vb.) to make more powerful or effective

chipset (n.) circuit on the motherboard controlling data transfer functions

improvement (n.) being better than before

to take over (phrasal vb.) to take the place of

to swipe (vb.) to move from one place to another with the finger on the screen

to poke (vb.) to push

And here comes the main **issue** of the product: battery power. It was not very **efficient** on the iPhone 6, however, now it is **actually** worse because there are more apps, **consuming** more power. Thankfully, it's still within **range** of the other best phones on the market. They have also added a special info window, which tells you, in **percentage**, which app uses the most battery. For example, if you are on a journey needing the GPS app and you see that Facebook is using all the battery you would **be wise to** switch it off. Such an application already exists on the new Android system so, again, no revolution here either.

Finally, the price. It's the iPhone! So it's going to be expensive... 749€ for the 16Gig version, which is **useless** because of the memory requirement of apps nowadays. The other two versions are the 64 and the 128Gig models which are sold for 859€ and 969€ **respectively**.

In a nutshell, this new iPhone is no revolution; it's really just a **revamp** of the older iPhone 6. Next year should be more interesting as Apple is presenting the 7th generation of its iPhone, which at the very least should have a new design!

issue (n.) important subject

actually (adv.) in fact

range (n.) a group of things which are similar

is wise to do something (exp.) is a good idea to do something

useless (adj.) not doing what it is supposed to do

in a nutshell (exp.) very briefly

to revamp (vb.) to make something better

***Tip!** Syllable Stress can help us to understand spoken words - if we know how to pronounce a word then we are more likely to hear it correctly and therefore understand it and be able to use it when we speak.

Let's take the words 'obligation' and 'obligatory' as an example.

First count the syllables: 'ob•li•ga•tion' has 4 syllables 'o•blig•a•to•ry' has 5 syllables

Syllable Stress is when you say one of the syllables slightly louder and with more emphasis. So in this example we say: **obligation** and **obligatory**