

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Extra Writing Skills Practice

(Unit 10, page 120)

Expressing and supporting your opinion

A. Circle the best connecting word or phrase in each set.

Jon Katz says that cell phones make us feel more stressed. I disagree (❶ this is why / because) I think cell phones make most people feel more relaxed. (❷ On account of / Because) cell phones, if you are running late, you can easily call family and friends to let them know the reason. (❸ In addition / Since), if you are looking for a friend in a crowded area and can't find him or her, all you need to do is call your friend on your cell phone. (❹ Because / Also), if you get lost, you can always use the cell phone to get directions. (❺ Finally / This is why), if you are in an emergency situation, you can call for help right away. Cell phones definitely make life less stressful.

B. Fill in the blanks with one of the connecting words or phrases below. Use each word only once. (Three words will not be used.)

- in addition
- first of all
- this is why
- since
- on account of
- also
- finally
- because

The author says, "The technological tools we use to make our lives easier are killing our leisure time." I definitely agree with him in the case of cell phones. ❶ _____, people at work think they can call me anytime—before or after work, and even on the weekends. ❷ _____, my kids are always calling me at work to solve any little problem that comes up. And my husband ❸ _____ calls with his problems—he's even worse than the kids are. ❹ _____ all these demands and interruptions, I have to spend not only more time taking care of things at work but also more time taking care of my family. ❺ _____ I think cell phones never should have been invented.