

Talking about pros and cons

- 1 (3.13) Read and listen to the dialogue. Do you think Lara is happy with her mobile phone? Why/Why not?



- Pam** Lara, in your experience, what are the pros and cons of a touch screen phone?
- Lara** I've never really thought about it actually. I bought the phone because I thought it looked nice. I think that's probably **one of the main advantages** really. Touch screen phones tend to be sleek and smooth, and in my opinion, mobiles are more attractive without a keyboard. **Another benefit** is the screen itself. This is much bigger than the screen on a normal mobile, so it's better for watching video clips, or viewing photos. Let me see ... **Another positive aspect** of touch screen phones is their flexibility. On this model you can choose the type of keyboard you want.
- Pam** Do they have any negative aspects?
- Lara** Well, it's hard to say really, because it depends on the user. **One of the main drawbacks** is that the lack of buttons can make text messaging difficult. **Another disadvantage** is that the screen can get very dirty. Also, some people say that touch screens **aren't a good idea** because of their sensitivity. You can activate an application without meaning to if your finger comes close to the screen, which can add to your frustration if you've just written a long email.

- 2 Read the dialogue again. Complete the chart with the expressions in **bold**.

Discussing pros
Another positive aspect is ...

Discussing cons
One of the main drawbacks is ...

LOOK OUT!

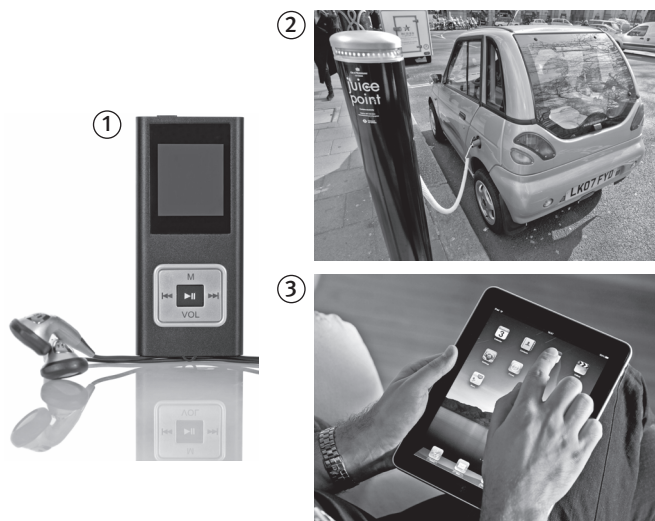
We often use nouns rather than adjectives to make our arguments more formal.
e.g. *adaptable* – *adaptability* ... *reliable* – *reliability*

- 3 Read the *Look out!* box and find two examples in the dialogue in exercise 1.
- 4 Complete the sentences with the noun form of the adjectives in the box.

affordable available compatible credible flexible portable

- 1 An important consideration when purchasing new software is its _____ with existing PCs.
- 2 Recent technological advances offer greater _____ in the workplace.
- 3 The _____ of mobile phones has increased, because more and more companies produce them.
- 4 The company lost all its _____ when their product failed to function during the presentation.
- 5 The main advantage of mobile phones is their _____ – you can take them anywhere.
- 6 The _____ of computers in schools has changed the way we learn.

- 5 Look at the photos. Work in pairs. What are the pros and cons of each of the objects?



- 6 (3.14) Listen to the dialogue. Match the speaker with the correct photo. Check your answers to exercise 5.

Speaking tip

When you are asked a difficult question, you don't have to start speaking immediately. Instead you can use certain expressions to give you time to think and organize your ideas.

- 7 (3.14) Read the *Speaking tip* and listen to the dialogue again. Complete the expressions.
- 1 That's an interesting _____.
 - 2 Let me _____.
 - 3 What _____?
 - 4 Well, it's difficult to _____, really.
- 8 Prepare a speech to present the pros and cons of one of the other objects in exercise 5. Use your notes from exercise 5 and expressions from exercise 7.
- 9 Make your presentation to the class.