Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Circle group

Grandpa Walt got his first smartphone on his seventy-second birthday. He did not trust it. He treated it like a strange dog. He typed slowly with one finger. He was sure the phone was reading over his shoulder. The most annoying thing it did was called autocorrect. It changed his words without asking. It seemed to enjoy doing it.

The trouble began when he texted his granddaughter Lena. He said he would meet her at the dock for fishing. The phone changed the word. Lena got a note that said he would meet her at the duck. She spent an hour looking around the pond for a bird that was waiting for her. The next day he wrote that he was bringing a casserole. The phone sent that he was bringing a castle. Lena's cousins bragged to the neighbors. The family chat filled up with questions about where he would park it.

Lena sat with him on the porch. She said the phone was not clever, only eager. The cure was to read each message before pressing send. She also showed him how to turn the feature off. Grandpa Walt thought about it. He kept it on, because he liked the surprises. Now the family has a list called "Walt-isms." It has "I need the ham" for "I need the hand." It has a proud note that said, "I caught a giant fist." Walt reads each text twice. He says a little mischief keeps a person young.

Questions

1. When did Grandpa Walt get his first smartphone?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone change "dock" into?

_____

_____

3. What did Lena tell Walt to do before he pressed send?

_____

_____

4. What is the family's list called?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lena look around the pond for an hour?

_____

_____

6. Why did Walt keep autocorrect on?

_____

_____

Words to know

autocorrect: a feature that changes typed words without asking
eager: very keen and ready to act
mischief: playful behavior that causes harmless trouble

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Triangle group

Grandpa Walt received his first smartphone on his seventy-second birthday, and he treated it with the deep suspicion that most people reserve for a strange dog. He typed slowly, using one finger, and he was certain that the phone was reading over his shoulder. Its most irritating habit was a feature called autocorrect, which changed his words without asking and seemed to take pleasure in doing it.

The trouble started when he texted his granddaughter Lena that he would meet her at the dock for fishing. The phone politely changed the word, and Lena received a message promising to meet her at the duck. She spent an hour searching the pond for a bird that was apparently expecting her. The next day he wrote that he was bringing a casserole, and the phone sent that he was bringing a castle. Lena's cousins began bragging to the neighbors, and the family group chat filled with questions about where he planned to park it.

Lena finally sat with him on the porch and explained that the phone was not clever, only eager, and that the cure was to read each message before pressing send. She also showed him how to turn the feature off. Grandpa Walt thought it over and decided to keep it on, because he had grown fond of the surprises. The family now keeps a list titled "Walt-isms," which includes "I need the ham" instead of "I need the hand," and a very proud message that read, "I caught a giant fist." Walt reads every text twice before he sends it, but he says that a little mischief keeps a person young.

Questions

1. When did Grandpa Walt get his first smartphone?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone change "dock" into?

_____

_____

3. What did Lena suggest that Walt do before pressing send?

_____

_____

4. What is the list that the family keeps called?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lena search the pond for an hour?

_____

_____

6. Why did Walt decide to keep autocorrect turned on?

_____

_____

Words to know

suspicion: a feeling that something cannot be trusted
autocorrect: a feature that changes typed words without asking
irritating: annoying and hard to put up with
eager: very keen and ready to act
mischief: playful behavior that causes harmless trouble

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Square group

Grandpa Walt received his first smartphone on his seventy-second birthday, and he regarded it with the profound suspicion that most people reserve for an unfamiliar dog. He typed laboriously with a single finger, and he was convinced that the phone was reading over his shoulder. Its most irritating habit was a feature called autocorrect, which altered his words without asking permission and seemed to take genuine delight in doing so.

The difficulties began when he texted his granddaughter Lena that he would meet her at the dock for a morning of fishing. The phone politely rewrote the word, and Lena received a message promising to meet her at the duck. She spent an hour scouring the pond for a bird that was apparently expecting her. The next day he wrote that he was bringing a casserole, and the phone transmitted that he was bringing a castle. Lena's cousins began boasting to the neighbors, and the family group chat overflowed with questions about where he intended to park it.

Lena finally sat down with him on the porch and explained that the phone was not clever, merely eager, and that the remedy was to read each message before pressing send. She also demonstrated how to switch the feature off. Grandpa Walt considered the option and decided to leave it on, because he had grown fond of the surprises. The family now maintains a list titled "Walt-isms," which includes "I need the ham" in place of "I need the hand," and one very proud announcement that read, "I caught a giant fist." Walt reads every text twice before sending it, but he insists that a little mischief keeps a person young.

Questions

1. When did Grandpa Walt receive his first smartphone?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone rewrite "dock" as?

_____

_____

3. What remedy did Lena recommend before pressing send?

_____

_____

4. What is the list that the family maintains called?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lena scour the pond for an hour?

_____

_____

6. Why did Walt decide to leave autocorrect switched on?

_____

_____

Words to know

suspicion: a feeling that something cannot be trusted
autocorrect: a feature that changes typed words without asking
irritating: annoying and hard to put up with
eager: very keen and ready to act
mischief: playful behavior that causes harmless trouble

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Easier · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. On his seventy-second birthday.
2. It changed it to "duck."
3. Read each message first.
4. The "Walt-isms" list.
5. The text seemed to say she would meet a duck, which was the phone's mistake.
6. He liked the funny surprises it made.

Triangle: Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

This passage · 275 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.8

1. On his seventy-second birthday.
2. It changed it to "duck."
3. Read each message first.
4. The "Walt-isms" list.
5. She thought the text promised a meeting with a duck, which was the phone's mistake.
6. He had grown fond of the funny surprises it produced.

Square: Grandpa Walt and the Stubborn Phone

Harder · 281 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.2

1. On his seventy-second birthday.
2. It rewrote it as "duck."
3. Reading each message first.
4. The "Walt-isms" list.
5. The message seemed to promise a meeting with a duck, which was the phone's mistake.
6. He had grown fond of the humorous surprises it produced.