



An engineer used a car phone just 5 months before the first mobile phone call was made in 1946.

## The First Mobile Phone Call

Adapted

from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/first-mobile-phone-call-was-made-75-years-ago-180978003/>

I have a cell phone built into my watch. People now take this type of technology for granted, but not so long ago it was firmly in the realm of science fiction. The transition from fantasy to reality was far from the flip of a switch. The amount of time, money, talent and effort required to put a telephone on my wrist spanned far beyond any one product development cycle.

The first mobile phone service, for 80-pound telephones installed in cars, was demonstrated on June 17, 1946, 75 years ago. The service was only available in major cities and highway corridors and was aimed at companies rather than individuals. The equipment filled much of a car's trunk, and subscribers made calls by picking up the handset and speaking to a switchboard operator. By 1948, the service had 5,000 customers.

The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated in 1973, nearly three decades after the introduction of the first mobile phone service. It was nearly three decades after that before half the U.S. population had a mobile phone.

1) Using key details from the text, what was the author's purpose of writing this article? [CCSS 6]

- a. To describe the evolution of cell phones.
- b. To describe how telephones are made.
- c. To compare and contrast car phones and telephones in 1946.
- d. To provide information about when and how the first mobile phone call took place.

2) Which statement about car telephones is made clearer by the photograph at the top of the article? [CCSS 7]

- a. The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated in 1973.
- b. The first mobile phone service, for 80-pound telephones installed in cars, was demonstrated on June 17, 1946, 75 years ago.
- c. The equipment filled much of a car's trunk.
- d. The amount of time, money, talent and effort required to put a telephone on my wrist spanned far beyond any one product development cycle.

NOTE: HIGHLIGHT and/or BOLD correct answer