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12/01/19

A pet peeve, according to google definition, is something that a particular person finds especially annoying. It can be anything from despising someone who chews with their mouth open to absolutely loathing people who walk too slow. Some people try their best to ignore it, while others can't stop complaining about them. Although not all people admit to having one, everybody has at least one thing that can really push their buttons. Speaking as a person who would like to believe that I go through most of my unbothered by the actions of others, even I can say that there is one pet peeve that can really get under my skin: people who choose to be on their phones while you talk to them.

In an age where the world revolves around technology, it is understandable how someone may find it hard to put down their hand held device. However, I do find it exceptionally rude when a person chooses to remain on their phone while you are talking to them. Communication is all about body language. Your words can be saying one thing, and your body, another. What someone being on their phone during a conversation communicates to me is that they are disengaged in the conversation, and would much rather be doing something else. Despite the fact that this is something that really gets on my nerves, there are some cases where it isn't exactly rude to do this.

Most people don't intend to be rude, and some even have really solid reasons for behaving this way. For example, they might have some really important business going on. Or

perhaps they are waiting on a really important text or call from someone. They may even be looking for something that they would like to show you, or something that may be relevant to the conversation. In these cases, a person being on their phone will not really bother me at all, so long as the person lets me know why in advance. However, regardless of whether or not I feel a person has a “good” reason to be on their phones during a conversation, I know they are likely not doing it intentionally, and I almost never say anything no matter how annoyed I become. Although it likely isn’t being done with intention, it is being done carelessly, and could be easily prevented.

One really good way to prevent this awkward social interaction is just by simply putting your phone in your pocket, in your bag, or even face down on a flat surface, this way you aren't tempted to look at your phone. An alternative, for those who have less self control, can be to simply ask the person to pause the conversation, this way you don't have to sacrifice screen time, but can also provide the person with your undivided attention. And for those who aren't necessarily doing anything important, but just wish to be on their phones, you can just give some verbal reassurance that you are in fact listening. With these many solutions, it almost seems careless when someone doesn't correct this annoying behavioral trait.