**Cell Phone Project**

Here’s a quick explanation of what goes in to a cell phone plan:

* The original cost of a phone. It may run from $0 (if you get a free upgrade) to $299 if you’re looking for a wonderful, new smartphone. A basic phone is one which is traditionally only used for texting or phone calls. We’ll assume it can take and send pictures. A smartphone is one which accesses the internet, uses apps, etc., and is usually seen in the form of an Android phone or iPhone. The costs of a few common phones are below. Of course, when you go to actually buy a phone (especially a smartphone), you don’t necessarily pick the cheapest phone, but that will be for another day. Assume a basic phone is free with a contract.
* The monthly cost of a phone. Most companies require you to pay a monthly fee for a basic phone and a slightly higher one for a smartphone. You are usually locked in to either a one-year contract or a two-year contract.
* The data plan for a phone. Data is charged for anything besides texts and phone calls that one makes on a cellular network. (There are no charges if your phone is hooked up to a wireless network.) These data charges come from using YouTube or most apps that connect the internet, streaming music, browsing the internet, emails, and GPS features. You pay for a certain amount of data each month. If you go over that limit, your account is charged fairly heavy penalties. Some companies let multiple phones on the same account share a data plan (for example, three phones might share a 2 gigabyte plan), while others require each phone to buy their own data plan. For a person who is always on a wireless network, or doesn’t use most of the features of a smartphone, 1 GB (gigabyte) of data is plenty. Others may need 2 GB or more.

This information is for the teacher, or a learner who needs the information, do not photocopy and give to groups.

Verizon Phones and Costs



  

AT&T Phones and Costs



 

T-Mobile Phones & Plans (Phone price per month included underneath each phone)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 1 Phone
	+ 500 MB at $50/month
	+ 2 GB at $60/month
	+ Unlimited data at $70/month
 | * 3 Phones
	+ 500 MB at $90/month
	+ 2 GB at $100/month
	+ Unlimited data at $100/month
 |
| * 2 Phones
	+ 500 MB at $80/month
	+ 2 GB at $90/month
	+ Unlimited data at $100/month
 | * 4 Phones
	+ 500 MB at $100/month
	+ 2 GB at $110/month
	+ Unlimited data at $100/month
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Cricket Phones and Plans (no phone price per month)

* Basic Phone
	+ $35/month
* Smart Phone
	+ 2.50 GB for $50/month
	+ 5.00 GB for $60/month
	+ 10 GB for $70/month

I need new phones for my house, and we are currently not on contract so we can switch to any company.

I need 2 smartphones and a plan to go with them.

Your task: In your groups, create a poster that lays out the 2 year cost of my 2 new phones and plan. Each person’s handwriting must be represented equally on the poster for everyone to receive full credit. Decide which plan I should get, and explain why clearly enough that my non-mathy significant other will understand. Graphical depictions of the costs would be helpful.