



## TEXTING

**Activity 1:** Write down 5 words describing your mobile phone.

MY MOBILE PHONE

**Activity 2: Mobile phone vocabulary**

**2A: Match the words (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).**

1.	a burner (phone)	A	to stop using a telephone at the end of a conversation
2.	a text (message)	B	the quality or strength of the picture or sound that you receive on a television, radio, or mobile phone
3.	pre-paid (phone)	C	an electronic system that records and stores spoken messages from people
4.	reception	D	something that has already been paid for, and so you do not need to pay at the time when you use it
5.	to call sb back	E	to send a written message to someone using a mobile phone
6.	to charge	F	to phone someone
7.	to give sb a buzz	G	a written message that you send or receive using a mobile phone
8.	to hang up	H	a prepaid mobile phone that is used only once or for a short period and then discarded
9.	to text sb	I	to telephone someone again, or to telephone someone who telephoned you earlier
10.	voicemail	J	to put electricity into a piece of electrical equipment such as a battery

Definitions: <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

**2B: Match the two halves to make phrases**

1.	to charge	A	reception
2.	to go straight to	B	text
3.	to get a	C	a battery
4.	to have poor	D	voicemail

**Activity 3: Discuss the following questions in pairs or in groups:**

1. What are the differences between a mobile phone and a smartphone?
2. How many times a day and how often do you check your mobile phone?
3. Which applications do you use on your mobile phone?
4. How many text messages do you send a day?
5. Do you use emoticons (☺ ☹ :p), emojis (✍️ ☕ 🌯 📞) and abbreviations in your texts?  
If yes, which one? Why do/don't you use them?

**Activity 4: Text messages**

**4A: Can you decode these expressions and terms used in English text messages? Work in pairs and write down their full forms.**

2		IMHO	
2DAY		L8R	
2NITE		LOL	
4		M8	
ASAP		OMG	
B4		PLZ	
BF		R	
BFN		ROTFL	
BRB		RUOK	
BTW		SRSLY	
CU		THX	
FYI		TMRW	
F2F		U	
GR8		XOXO	

**4B: Can you decode English texts? Work in pairs and write down their full versions (FV).**

TEXT: Had a gr8 time thx 4 ur present. C U 2mrw ☺
FV:
TEXT: OMG nd 2 talk 2 U ASAP. U wdnt believe what Kate told me her BF did this wknd. I will tell U F2F 2nte.
FV:
TEXT: gr8 t c u 2nite b4 I go 2 wrk
FV:

**4C: Work in pairs and be creative! On a separate sheet of paper, write two text messages using abbreviations and exchange them with another group. Can you decode their text messages?**

TEXT 1:
TEXT 2:

**Activity 5: TED Talk “Txtng is killing language. JK!!!” by John McWhorter**

**5A: Match the words (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).**

1.	a scourge	A	an amount that you guess or calculate using the information available
2.	a decline	B	deliberate and intentional
3.	literacy	C	ordinary and not interesting or exciting, especially because of happening too regularly
4.	estimate	D	entertained or interested by something
5.	conscious	E	something that causes a lot of trouble or harm
6.	casual	F	an annoying problem or situation, especially one that forces you to make an extra effort to do something
7.	lack of	G	the ability to read and write
8.	amused	H	a reduction in the amount or quality of something
9.	inconvenience	I	relaxed and informal
10.	mundane	J	a situation in which you do not have any, or enough, of something that you need or want

Definitions A,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J: <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

Definition B: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>

**5B: Listen to the TED Talk “Txtng is killing language. JK!!!” by John McWhorter and answer the questions or say if the sentence is true (T) or false (F).**

1. Writing is the same as texting. T/F
2. Speech is older than writing. T/F
3. People write the way they speak. T/F
4. How long are word packets used in a casual speech?
5. Years ago people used to give very long and complex speeches. T/F
6. Texting is writing the way we talk. T/F
7. While texting, you care about punctuation. T/F
8. What is fingered speech?



9. What does 'LOL' stand for?
10. What does 'slash' (/) stand for?
11. People have been complaining about the incorrectness and decline of the language for ages. T/F
12. According to the speaker, texting is killing language. T/F
13. Texting is a new language developed by young people. T/F
14. How can we describe texting, speaking and writing? Write down what John McWhorter says about these forms of language. You can use these expressions more than once.

TEXTING	SPEAKING	WRITING

**COMPLEX**

**LESS REFLECTIVE**

**LOOSE**

**REFLECTIVE**

**TELEGRAPHIC**

**WITH CAPITAL LETTERS**

**WITH PUNCTUATION**

**WITHOUT CAPITAL LETTERS**

**WITHOUT PUNCTUATION**

15. Do you agree with John McWhorter?