



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?