



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) H	A	to stop using a telephone at the end of a conversation
2.	a text (message) G	B	the quality or strength of the picture or sound that you receive on a television, radio, or mobile phone
3.	pre-paid (phone) D	C	an electronic system that records and stores spoken messages from people
4.	reception B	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 I	E	to send a written message to someone using a mobile phone
6.	to charge J	F	to phone someone
7.	to give sb a buzz F	G	a written message that you send or receive using a mobile phone
8.	to hang up A	H	a prepaid mobile phone that is used only once or for a short period and then discarded
9.	to text sb E	I	to telephone someone again, or to telephone someone who telephoned you earlier
10.	voicemail C	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 C	A	reception
2.	to go straight to D	B	text
3.	to get a B	C	a battery
4.	to have poor A	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	to/too/two	IMHO	in my humble opinion
2DAY	today	L8R	later
2NITE	tonight	LOL	laughing out loud
4	for/four	M8	mate
ASAP	as soon as possible	OMG	oh my God
B4	before	PLZ	please
BF	boyfriend	R	are
BFN	bye for now	ROTFL	tolling on the floor laughing
BRB	be right back	RUOK	Are you ok?
BTW	by the way	SRSLY	seriously
CU	see you	THX	thanks
FYI	for your information	TMRW	tomorrow
F2F	face to face	U	you
GR8	great	XOXO	hugs and kisses

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: I HAD A GREAT TIME THANKS FOR YOUR PRESENT. SEE YOU TOMORROW ☺
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: OH MY GOD! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT KATE TOLD ME HER BOYFRIEND DID THIS WEEKEND. I WILL TELL YOU FACE TO FACE TONIGHT.
TEXT: gr8 t c u 2nite b4 I go 2 wrk!
FV: GREAT TO SEE YOU TONIGHT BEFORE I GO TO WORK!

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

To watch the video scan the QR code or go to http://bit.ly/AT_Texting



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? **Seven to 10 words**
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? **Texting**

9. What does 'LOL' stand for? **'Laughing out loud' and it is also a marker of empathy and accommodation**

10. What does 'slash' (/) stand for? **Changing the topic**

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
LESS REFLECTIVE	LESS REFLECTIVE	REFLECTIVE
LOOSE	LOOSE	COMPLEX
WITHOUT PUNCTUATION	WITHOUT PUNCTUATION	WITH PUNCTUATION
TELEGRAPHIC	TELEGRAPHIC	WITH CAPITAL LETTERS
WITHOUT CAPITAL LETTERS	WITHOUT CAPITAL LETTERS	

COMPLEX

REFLECTIVE

WITH PUNCTUATION

LESS REFLECTIVE

TELEGRAPHIC

WITHOUT CAPITAL LETTERS

LOOSE

WITH CAPITAL LETTERS

WITHOUT PUNCTUATION

15. Do you agree with John McWhorter?