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Text messaging turns 20

5th December, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

One of the information age's biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone operator Vodafone. It read simply, "Merry Christmas". Little did they know that their humble mode of communication would take the world by storm. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every corner of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing countries relies on it to communicate.

SMS is now an integral part of daily life for most of us. It is the preferred method of communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager sends up to 60 texts a day. It has also spawned countless original and innovative business strategies from sending cash overseas to voting in online polls. However, SMS has also been blamed for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sub-language has spread worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters. Texting shorthand such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/12/03/tech/mobile/sms-text-message-20/>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2012/dec/02/text-messaging-turns-20>
<http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/text-messaging-has-turned-20/>

WARM-UPS

1. TEXT MESSAGING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about text messaging. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

information age / birthday / software engineer / communication / mobile phone / relies / daily life / teenager / innovative / business strategies / shortcuts / shorthand / OMG

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TEXTERS: What do these people use texts for? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

| | Importance of SMS | What do they text about | To whom? |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| US President | | | |
| 10-year-old | | | |
| Business leader | | | |
| Rock star | | | |
| Housewife | | | |
| Spy | | | |

4. LANGUAGE: Students A **strongly** believe texting is destroying kids' written language skills; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't and is having other benefits. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. COMMUNICATION: What's the best way? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- SMS
- face to face
- telephone
- letter
- e-mail
- body language
- Facebook / Twitter
- other _____

6. BIRTHDAY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'birthday'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The first text message was sent by the creator of the World Wide Web. T / F
- b. The first text message said "Merry Christmas". T / F
- c. The abbreviation "SMS" means "Super Messaging System". T / F
- d. Almost nine billion text messages are sent worldwide every year. T / F
- e. An average US teen supposedly sends around 60 text messages a day. T / F
- f. People blame SMS for a deterioration in writing standards in kids. T / F
- g. An abbreviated, shorthand language has been created by texters. T / F
- h. The texting acronym "LOL" is in the dictionary as "Lots of Love". T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. age | a. fundamental |
| 2. humble | b. surveys |
| 3. mode | c. faraway |
| 4. remote | d. abroad |
| 5. relies | e. simple |
| 6. integral | f. depends |
| 7. spawned | g. held responsible |
| 8. overseas | h. era |
| 9. polls | i. generated |
| 10. blamed | j. method |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. One of the information age's | a. in language ability |
| 2. Little did | b. on it to communicate |
| 3. take the world | c. biggest successes |
| 4. villagers in remote | d. language has spread |
| 5. relies | e. for most of us |
| 6. an integral part of daily life | f. they know |
| 7. innovative | g. such as LOL |
| 8. blamed for a decline | h. parts of developing countries |
| 9. A new sub- | i. business strategies |
| 10. Texting shorthand | j. by storm |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

One of the information (1) _____ biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone (2) _____ Vodafone. It read (3) _____, "Merry Christmas". Little did they know that their humble (4) _____ of communication would take the world by (5) _____. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every (6) _____ of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in (7) _____ parts of developing countries (8) _____ on it to communicate.

storm

simply

relies

mode

age's

corner

operator

remote

SMS is now an (9) _____ part of daily life for most of us. It is the (10) _____ method of communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager sends up to 60 texts a day. It has also spawned (11) _____ original and innovative business strategies from sending cash overseas to voting in online (12) _____. However, SMS has also been (13) _____ for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sub-language has spread worldwide as texters find (14) _____ to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest (15) _____ characters. Texting (16) _____ such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

blamed

preferred

possible

integral

polls

shorthand

countless

shortcuts

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

- 1) One of the _____ has celebrated its 20th birthday.
 - a. age's biggest information successes
 - b. biggest information age's success
 - c. information age's biggest successes
 - d. information age is biggest success
- 2) _____ that their humble mode of communication would take the _____.
 - a. Small things they knew / world storms
 - b. Little did they know / world by storm
 - c. They knew little / storm by world
 - d. They never knew / stormy world
- 3) ... a multi-billion-dollar industry _____ of the globe
 - a. cornering every covering
 - b. covering every cornering
 - c. cornering every corner
 - d. covering every corner
- 4) An estimated _____ text messages are sent globally each year.
 - a. nine trillion
 - b. 19 trillion
 - c. 90 billion
 - d. nine billion trillion
- 5) from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in _____
 - a. remoter parties of developing countries
 - b. remote parts of developing countries
 - c. developing parts of remote countries
 - d. remote developments of parted countries
- 6) SMS is now an integral part of daily life _____.
 - a. for most of us
 - b. foremost of us
 - c. for most of Earth
 - d. foremost as such
- 7) ...the average American teenager sends _____ texts a day.
 - a. around 60
 - b. over 60
 - c. as many as 60
 - d. up to 60
- 8) It has _____ original and innovative business strategies.
 - a. as well spawned countless
 - b. also spawned countless
 - c. also spanned countless
 - d. also spawned counts less
- 9) texters _____ write their messages as quickly as possible
 - a. fund shortcuts to
 - b. find shorter cuts to
 - c. find shot cats to
 - d. find shortcuts to
- 10) using _____ characters
 - a. the fewer possible
 - b. the last possible
 - c. the smallest possible
 - d. the fewest possible

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

One of the information (1) _____ has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British (2) _____ Vodafone. It read simply, "Merry Christmas". Little did they know that (3) _____ communication would take (4) _____. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every (5) _____. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing (6) _____ to communicate.

SMS is now (7) _____ life for most of us. It is the preferred method of communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager (8) _____ a day. It has also spawned countless original and innovative business (9) _____ cash overseas to voting in online polls. However, SMS has also been (10) _____ in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sub-language has spread worldwide (11) _____ to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters. (12) _____ LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

1. On what day was the first text message sent?

2. Who was the first text message sent to?

3. How many words were in the very first text message?

4. What does "SMS" mean?

5. What do presidents and schoolchildren rely on SMS to do?

6. For whom is SMS the preferred method of communication?

7. Who sends up to 60 texts a day?

8. What two problems has texting been blamed for?

9. What did texters find to write messages more quickly?

10. What does "LOL" mean?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

1. What age has celebrated a big success?
 - a) the information ages
 - b) 20th birthday
 - c) the age of 20
 - d) the information age
2. On what day was the very first text message sent?
 - a) Tuesday
 - b) the third of December
 - c) 1992
 - d) December 13th
3. What did the first text message say?
 - a) haP xsms
 - b) Happy Christmas
 - c) Merry Xmas
 - d) Merry Christmas
4. What does "SMS" mean?
 - a) Standard Mobile Sender
 - b) Software Messenger Standard
 - c) Short Message Service
 - d) Simple Messaging System
5. Roughly how many text messages are sent globally each year?
 - a) 9 billion
 - b) 19 trillion
 - c) nine trillion billion
 - d) nine trillion
6. What is now SMS and integral part of?
 - a) mobile phones
 - b) the way leaders communicate to their people
 - c) our daily life
 - d) computer systems
7. Who sends up to 60 text messages a day?
 - a) the average U.S. teen
 - b) a texting robot called Texty
 - c) Barack Obama
 - d) a dissatisfied shopper
8. What has SMS created?
 - a) a museum for secret messages
 - b) increased street violence
 - c) innovative business strategies
 - d) a breakdown in face-to-face communication
9. What do people say has gone down because of SMS?
 - a) phone bills
 - b) what kids know about language
 - c) Internet use
 - d) the number of words in the language
10. What have texters found to write more quickly?
 - a) shortcuts
 - b) the Oxford English Dictionary
 - c) LOL
 - d) messages

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ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

Role A – Worried parent

You are very worried about your 12-year-old. Her written language is terrible. She can't spell. You blame texting. She spends most of the day staring at her mobile phone waiting for messages. She gets over 100 a day!! Not good. You want a law on children and texting. Tell the others 3 reasons why.

Role B – Daughter

You are very worried about your mother. She gets so angry when you text. She shouts at you when you spell a word incorrectly. She doesn't understand the information age. Everyone texts. You want to teach her about SMS but she isn't interested. SMS is cool. Tell the others 3 reasons why.

Role C – Sociologist

Your research tells you SMS is leading to behavioural problems in kids. They are losing their social skills. Their view of the real world is changing – they think the real world is online. This is bad. Tell the others 3 reasons why. If things continue, people will lose their ability to speak.

Role D – Mobile phone boss

SMS is one of the most important technologies of the century. Tell the others 3 reasons why. People who don't like it live in the past. SMS is now the real world. Language has always changed, it's now changing faster. That's life. People communicate more today than ever before. That's great.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'text' and 'message'.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| text | message |
|-------------|----------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• biggest• software• simply• multi-• nine• remote | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• daily• 60• cash• increase• fewest• entered |
|--|---|

TEXT MESSAGING SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

Write five GOOD questions about text messaging in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

TEXT MESSAGING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the term 'text message'?
- c) How important is text messaging to you?
- d) What would life be like without SMS?
- e) Do you think SMS will change in the future?
- f) Talk about the first time you used SMS.
- g) Have you ever sent a text message by mistake?
- h) Do you think SMS is good value for money?
- i) What new things would you like to see with SMS?
- j) How has SMS changed the world?

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TEXT MESSAGING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How often do you send text messages, and why?
- c) In what ways is SMS better than e-mail, chat, Facebook, etc.?
- d) Are there any bad things about SMS?
- e) What's the most useful thing about SMS for you?
- f) Is sending 60 texts a day OK?
- g) What do you think of people who send messages that say, "I'm hungry"?
- h) Are you a fast texter? How can you get faster?
- i) Do you like the texting shortcuts and emoticons?
- j) What questions would you like to ask an SMS expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

One of the information (1) _____ biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone operator Vodafone. It read (2) _____, "Merry Christmas". (3) _____ did they know that their humble mode of communication would take the world by (4) _____. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every (5) _____ of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing countries (6) _____ on it to communicate.

SMS is now an (7) _____ part of daily life for most of us. It is the preferred method of communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager sends up to 60 texts a day. It has also (8) _____ countless original and (9) _____ business strategies from sending cash overseas to voting in online polls. However, SMS has also been (10) _____ for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new (11) _____-language has spread worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters. Texting (12) _____ such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) age | (b) ages | (c) age's | (d) ageless |
| 2. | (a) simply | (b) just | (c) simple | (d) that |
| 3. | (a) Small | (b) Little | (c) Few | (d) Lots |
| 4. | (a) thunder | (b) lightning | (c) typhoon | (d) storm |
| 5. | (a) angle | (b) reach | (c) corner | (d) wall |
| 6. | (a) rely | (b) relies | (c) reliant | (d) reliable |
| 7. | (a) integral | (b) integer | (c) internal | (d) ingratiating |
| 8. | (a) sprained | (b) pawned | (c) spammed | (d) spawned |
| 9. | (a) innovation | (b) innovate | (c) innovative | (d) initiative |
| 10. | (a) blameworthy | (b) blameless | (c) blame | (d) blamed |
| 11. | (a) shrub | (b) sub | (c) snub | (d) stub |
| 12. | (a) shorthand | (b) longhand | (c) upper hand | (d) underhand |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

Paragraph 1

1. biggest susseeccsc
2. ltcaeebder its 20th birthday
3. demo of communication
4. a multi-billion-dollar dsnyiutr
5. An dseatietm nine trillion text messages
6. lereis on it to communicate

Paragraph 2

7. an niltearg part of daily life
8. the erdrfeepr method
9. eonitavnv business strategies
10. online sloip
11. traffic tnsidcea
12. the fewest possible acesathrcr

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software
- () presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing countries relies on it to communicate.
- () up to 60 texts a day. It has also spawned countless original and innovative business strategies from
- () as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible
- () did they know that their humble mode of communication would take the world by
- () communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager sends
- () storm. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every
- () sending cash overseas to voting in online polls. However, SMS has also been blamed for a decline
- () characters. Texting shorthand such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.
- () engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone operator Vodafone. It read simply, "Merry Christmas". Little
- () SMS is now an integral part of daily life for most of us. It is the preferred method of
- () in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sub-language has spread worldwide
- () corner of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from
- (**1**) One of the information age's biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

1. One successes biggest age's information the of.

2. storm by world the take would Communication.

3. a multi - billion - dollar industry SMS is today.

4. Nine messages globally text sent year trillion are each.

5. countries developing of parts remote in Villagers.

6. daily SMS an of now part life is integral.

7. to American up texts average sends 60 The teenager.

8. original innovative strategies Countless and business.

9. been also has SMS ability language in decline a for blamed.

10. Texters messages their write to shortcuts find.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

One of the information *age's / ages* biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, *sample / simple*, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone *operation / operator* Vodafone. It read simply, "Merry Christmas". *Little / Small* did they know that their humble *mode / module* of communication would take the world by *thunder / storm*. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar *industrial / industry* covering every *corner / angle* of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent *global / globally* each year. Everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing countries *relies / rely* on it to communicate.

SMS is now an *integral / integer* part of daily life for most of us. It is the *preferred / preference* method of communication between family members. One study showed *what / that* the average American teenager sends up to 60 texts a day. It has also *spammed / spawned* countless original and innovative business *strategies / strategy* from sending cash overseas to voting in online *pills / polls*. However, SMS has also been *blameless / blamed* for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sub-language has *spared / spread* worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the *fewest / least* possible characters. Texting *shorthand / underhand* such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

On the first of the year's biggest success has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by a teenager named Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone company Vodafone. It read simply, "Merry Christmas". Little did they know that the humble message from the world took the world by storm. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering very corners of the globe. In the meantime, the internet text messages are sent globally every year. Very few from parents to school children to villagers in remote parts of developing countries are not taking advantage of it.

SMS is now an integral part of daily life from first class. It is the preferred method of communication between family members. In a study showed that the average American sends up to 60 texts a day. This has spawned countless regional and national business strategies from sending Christmas cards to voting online polls. However, SMS has also been blamed for declining language ability and increasing text errors. New slang has spread worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters. Texting shorthand such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has virtually replaced the Oxford English Dictionary.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

one of the information age's biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday the very first simple text message was sent on december 3rd 1992 it was sent by software engineer neil papworth to his boss at the british mobile phone operator vodafone it read simply "merry christmas" little did they know that their humble mode of communication would take the world by storm sms (short message service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every corner of the globe an estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year everyone from presidents to schoolchildren to villagers in remote parts of developing countries relies on it to communicate sms is now an integral part of daily life for most of us it is the preferred method of communication between family members one study showed that the average american teenager sends up to 60 texts a day it has also spawned countless original and innovative business strategies from sending cash overseas to voting in online polls however sms has also been blamed for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents a new sub-language has spread worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters texting shorthand such as lol (laugh out loud) and omg (oh my god) has even entered the oxford english dictionary

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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One of the information age's biggest successes has celebrated its 20th birthday. The very first, simple, text message was sent on December 3rd, 1992. It was sent by software engineer Neil Papworth to his boss at the British mobile phone operator Vodafone. It reads simply, "Merry Christmas". Little did they know that their humble mode of communication would take the world by storm. SMS (Short Message Service) is today a multi-billion-dollar industry covering every corner of the globe. An estimated nine trillion text messages are sent globally each year. Everyone from presidents to school children to villagers in remote parts of developing countries relies on it to communicate. SMS is now an integral part of daily life for most of us. It is the preferred method of communication between family members. One study showed that the average American teenager sends up to 60 texts a day. It has also spawned countless original and innovative business strategies from sending cash overseas to voting in online polls. However, SMS has also been blamed for a decline in language ability and an increase in traffic accidents. A new sublanguage has spread worldwide as texters find shortcuts to write their messages as quickly as possible using the fewest possible characters. Texting shorthand such as LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my god) has even entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121205-text_messaging.html

Texting has come under attack from teachers who say it is harming children's writing skills. Identify the problems with texting and suggest some solutions.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about text messaging. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TEXT MESSAGING: Make a poster about text messaging. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. LANGUAGE: Write a magazine article about the negative effect text messaging is having on the writing ability of children. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against kids texting.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a texting expert. Ask him/her three questions about SMA. Give him/her three ideas on how to make it better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. age | a. era |
| 2. humble | b. simple |
| 3. mode | c. method |
| 4. remote | d. faraway |
| 5. relies | e. depends |
| 6. integral | f. fundamental |
| 7. spawned | g. generated |
| 8. overseas | h. abroad |
| 9. polls | i. surveys |
| 10. blamed | j. held responsible |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. December 3rd
2. A boss at the British mobile phone operator Vodafone
3. Two
4. Short Message Service
5. Communicate
6. Family members
7. The average American teenager
8. Worsening language in kids and more traffic accidents
9. Shortcuts
10. Laugh out loud

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)