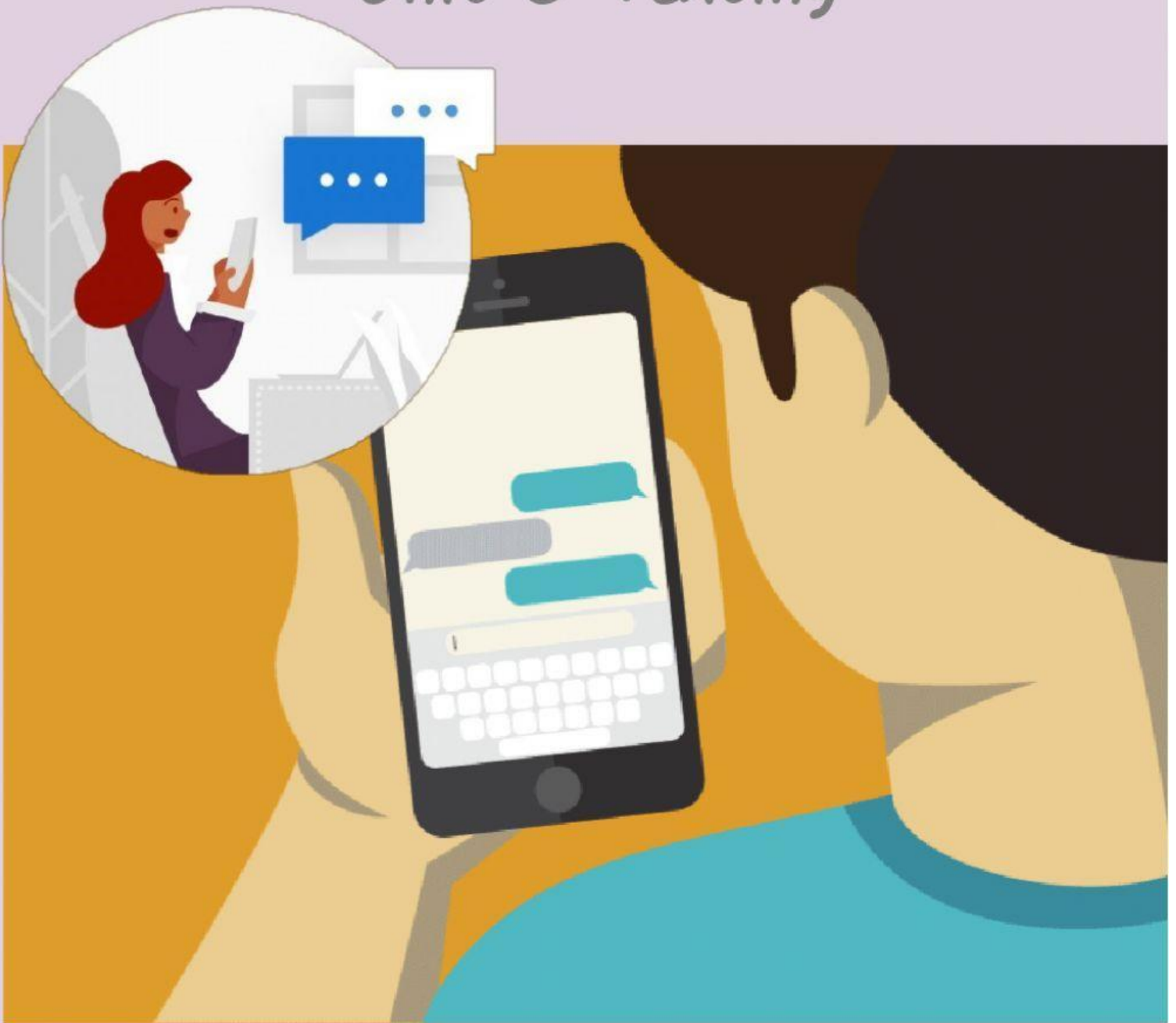


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English Learning Through Digital Media

Unit 8 Texting

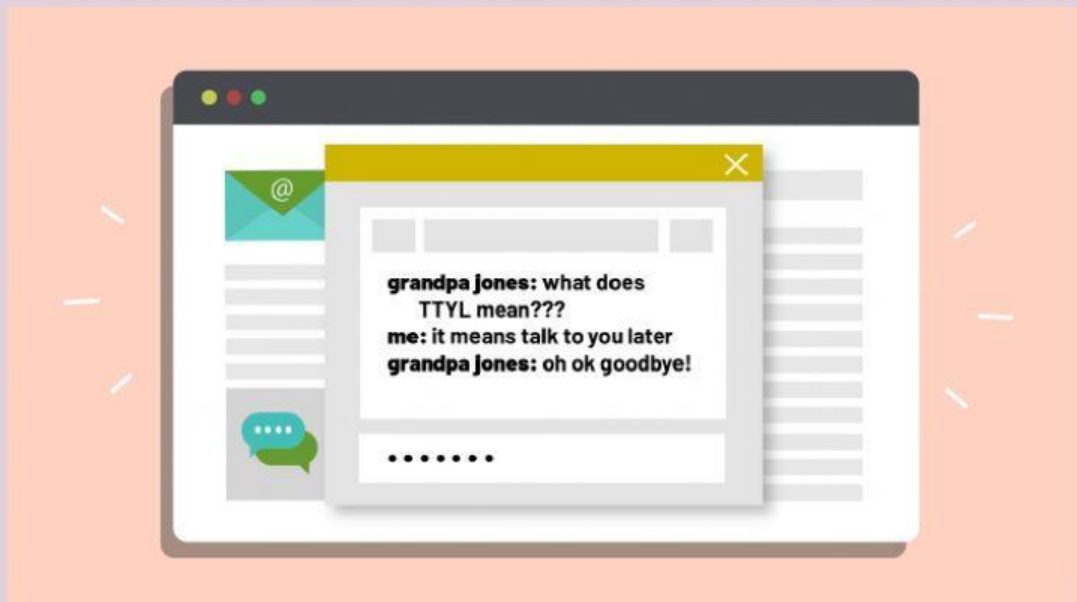


Getting Started

You've probably heard people talk about text messaging, or texting. Text messages are short messages (usually 160 characters or fewer) sent from one mobile phone to another. It's similar to instant messaging, except that you won't need to log in—you'll just send messages directly from your phone.

Typically, texting is not free, although your mobile carrier probably offers service packages that include a certain number of texts per month (or even unlimited texts). If you don't have a texting plan, you'll generally be charged whenever you send or receive a text message.

Chat and instant messaging (IM) are short messages sent and read in real time, allowing you to converse more quickly and easily than email.



Chat and IM are generally used when both (or all) people are online, so your message can be read immediately. By comparison, an email message won't be seen until the recipient checks his email, meaning that chat and IM are better for quick messages and conversations.

The terms chat and IM are sometimes used interchangeably. However, they can have slightly different meanings:

Chat often occurs in a virtual chat room, which can include many different people who may or may not know each other. Many chat rooms focus on a particular topic or interest.

IM usually includes a list of your contacts, called a Buddy List or Friend List, which allows you to see who is online. IM is especially suited for one-on-one communication, but it's possible to send messages to multiple people at once. IM is technically a kind of chat, and some IM services use the term "chat" instead.

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with the words given below. And answer the question.

in the real time

Instant Messaging

send messages

text plan

- 1. This month's AIS special promotion allows you to send 50 free messages per month.*
- 2. When both (or all) persons are online, texting, chat, or instant messaging are commonly used....., allowing your message to be seen right away.*
- 3. IM is short for*
- 4. Unlike email, you don't need to log in—you'll just directly from your phone.*
- 5. Which one needs logging in?*
 - a. IM*
 - b. Chat*
 - c. email*
 - d. texting*

Many people ask the same question: "Why would I send a text message when I could just call the person?" One of the main reasons is that it's faster, at least for short messages. It can easily take several minutes to "send" your message with a phone call. With a text message, the same message could be sent with a text in just a few seconds.

There are also times when it's not really possible to call someone, like if you're at a meeting, or in class, or any other place where you're not able to talk easily. Texting is often the best alternative in these situations.

Do note that typing on a mobile phone tends to be slower than typing on a computer. To speed things up, people often use abbreviations and acronyms. If you're not familiar with these abbreviations, it can be difficult to understand some text messages. To see some of the most common acronyms, check out the Top 50 Popular Text & Chat Acronyms.

Language focus

Content words and function words

Sentences usually contain a mixture of content words and function words. Content words are often *nouns, main verbs, adjectives and time phrases*—they are the words that give us the meaning of a sentence.

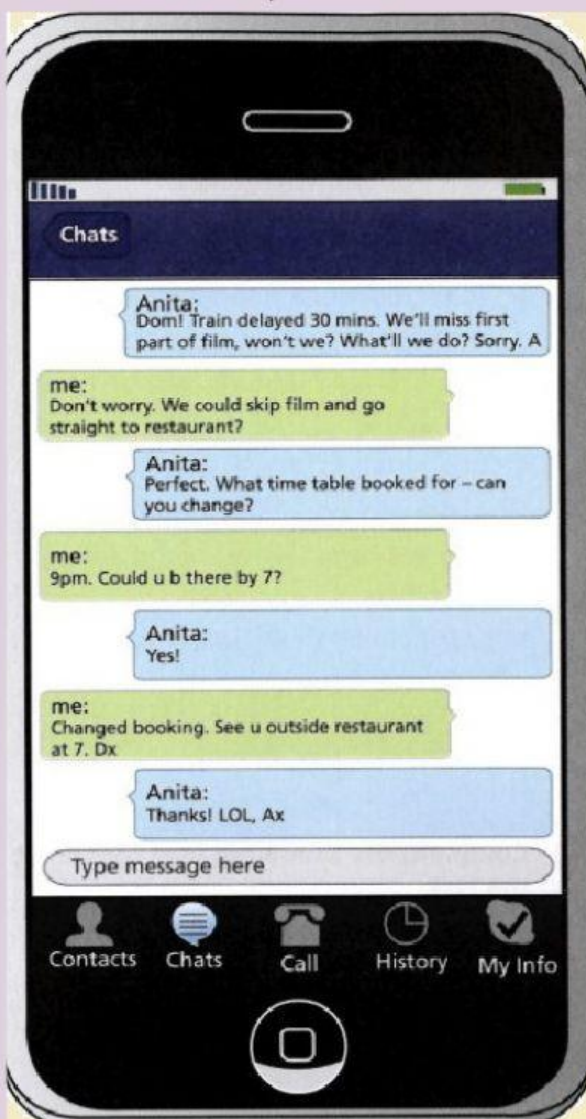
Example There is a party at the 'Students' Union tonight.
Are you coming?

Function words are often *articles, conjunctions, auxiliary verbs and prepositions*.

If you remove the function words from a sentence, your reader can usually still understand the meaning, which is why we often leave them out when texting. If you aren't sure whether a word is a function word or content word, ask yourself: 'would you still understand the sentence if this word was left out?'

Example Party at 'Students' Union tonight. You coming?

Exercise 2: Anita and Dominik have arranged to meet to see a film and have dinner, but things are not going according to plan. Read the SMS on Dominik's phone. Then answer the questions.



1. What is the problem?

2. How do they solve it?

Exercise 3: Both Dominik and Anita miss out words to make sentence shorter and quicker to type. Find the sentences where words are missing and write them out in full.

Example Train delayed 30 mins. = My train has been delayed by 30 minutes

1. We'll miss first part of film, won't we?

.....

2. Sorry

.....

3. We could skip film and go straight to restaurant?

.....

4. Perfect

.....

5. What time table booked for - can you change?

.....

6. 9pm

.....

7. change booking

.....

8. See you outside restaurant at 7.

.....

Looking closely

There are also times when it's not really possible to call someone, like if you're at a meeting, or in class, or any other place where you're not able to talk easily. Texting is often the best alternative in these situations.

Do note that typing on a mobile phone tends to be slower than typing on a computer. To speed things up, people often use abbreviations and acronyms. If you're not familiar with these abbreviations, it can be difficult to understand some text messages. To see some of the most common acronyms, check out the Top 50 Popular Text & Chat Acronyms below.

2moro - Tomorrow

2nite - Tonight

BRB - Be Right Back

BTW - By The Way -or- Bring The Wheelchair -or- Booty To Win

B4N - Bye For Now

BCNU - Be Seeing You

BFF - Best Friends Forever -or- Best Friend's Funeral

CYA - Cover Your Ass -or- See Ya

DBEYR - Don't Believe Everything You Read

DILLIGAS - Do I Look Like I Give A Sh**

FUD - Fear, Uncertainty, and Disinformation

FWIW - For What It's Worth -or- Forgot Where I Was

GR8 - Great

ILY - I Love You

IMHO - In My Humble Opinion

IRL - In Real Life

ISO - In Search Of

J/K - Just Kidding

LMAO - Laughing My Ass Off

LOL - Laughing Out Loud -or- Lots Of Love -or- Living On Lipitor

LYLAS - Love You Like A Sister

MHOTY - My Hat's Off To You

NIMBY - Not In My Back Yard

NP - No Problem -or- Nosy Parents

NUB - New person to a site or game

OIC - Oh, I See
OMG - Oh My Gosh
OT - Off Topic
POV - Point Of View
RBTL - Read Between The Lines
ROTFLMAO - Rolling On The Floor Laughing My Ass Off
RT - Real Time -or- ReTweet
THX or TX or THKS - Thanks
SH - Sh** Happens
SITD - Still In The Dark
SOL - Sh** Out of Luck -or- Sooner Or Later
STBY - Sucks To Be You
SWAK - Sealed (or Sent) With A Kiss
TFH - Thread From Hell
RTM or RTFM - Read The Manual -or- Read The F***ing Manual
TLC - Tender Loving Care
TMI - Too Much Information
TTYL - Talk To You Later -or- Type To You Later
TYVM - Thank You Very Much
VBG - Very Big Grin
WEG - Wicked Evil Grin
WTF - What The F***
WYWH - Wish You Were Here
XOXO - Hugs and Kisses

Exercise 4: Write the meaning of each abbreviation to be able to understand the message sent to Jane.



Exercise 5: Complete the following text conversation with text speak or shortened words from the box.

OMG	gr8	tho	BTW	cd
u	ttu	LOL	xoxo	u

Eric: Fancy coffee tomorrow? 11 at Coco Matin?

Matt: Sorry - in bed with horrible cold. Maybe next week?

Eric: Oh 1) poor thing - need anything?

Matt: No, all fine, Thanks 2)

Eric: 3), Pierre talking about 4) again yesterday.

Matt: 5) ! What did he say?

Eric: How 6) your blind date was and wants to 7) again.

Matt: No! Really? Can u come round? We 8) talk more.

Eric: Course! C u in 15 mins, 9) ! xxx

Matt: Fab! 10)