

Writing takes more time and effort than speaking: the writer simply does not want to waste time writing any more words than are necessary to convey the message, and the reader can always go back and reread if he/she feels repetition is necessary.	It uses forms that are more standard
We usually read text some time after it has been written. Spoken discourse, in contrast, is in most cases produced and received simultaneously.	It is dense
A text once written is there on paper or on the screen, to be easily reread or rewritten. Speech, on the other hand, is normally fleeting, with no possibility of changing and editing.	It is time-independent
The target audience for a written text is rarely physically present. Spoken interaction, on the other hand, is mostly face to face.	It is permanent
Writing is much slower than speaking, reading or listening. This is one reason why it is used least of the four skills in real-life communicative activity.	The person addressed is not physically present
Most people acquire the spoken language intuitively, whereas the written form is normally taught and learned in school.	It is produced slowly
English speech typically varies widely, in accent, lexis and grammar, according to the cultural or linguistic background of the speaker; writing, in contrast, is more uniform and tends to observe conventional usages.	It is a learnt and high-prestige form