



# THE FAST & THE FURIOUS

Communication is quick and easy with digital technology. But is it making us lazy? Should some things be more personal?

Jin



'Instagram means I don't \_\_\_\_\_ anything.'

I'm **really** into Instagram. It's **especially** useful for birthdays, that kind of thing. When I check my Instagram feed, I can see who's celebrating, so I never forget. And I can just write a message on their post. And when people have big news – maybe a new baby or something – you can write a comment straight away.

Julie



'I'd prefer a phone call to a \_\_\_\_\_.'

I **absolutely** hate it when friends cancel by text. It's so rude. My friend Sara and I planned to go to the cinema tonight. But I'm **pretty** sure she'll cancel – she usually does. I'm waiting for her text now.

'Writing a blog is a lot easier than sending \_\_\_\_\_.'

I'm studying in New York, away from my family. And while I'm here, I'm writing a blog so my friends and family at home know my news. I **particularly** like to put all my photos on there because people leave comments. Most of my friends use social media, but I prefer writing a blog. It's **fairly** easy to do, and it's quicker than writing 50 separate emails.

Marc



Hi Sara,  
Are we still on for the film tonight?

Hi Julie,  
Not sure. I'll let you know soon.

Gabriel



I engage with my \_\_\_\_\_ on Instagram.'

I don't keep in touch with a lot of close friends, but I do have a lot of followers on Instagram. I post photos and videos every day. I'm an artist, so sometimes I include my new art and talk about where people can see my art in person. My followers comment on my posts, and sometimes they come to one of my art shows. It's great to meet them in person, but I'm shy, so I prefer to communicate through pictures!



### Discussion

How do you communicate? Do you do these things with your friends and family? If not, what do you do instead?

- send birthday cards to friends
- write a blog
- send postcards from abroad
- write letters by hand
- make plans with friends by email
- cancel plans by text or direct message
- call friends to invite them somewhere

**Read the introduction to the article and the line in 'quotation marks' under each photo.** What do you think the missing words are? Add them to the article.

**Read the article and answer the questions.**

1. Why does Julie think her friend will cancel?

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2. What does social media help Jin remember?

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3. Why is Marc writing a blog?

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4. Why does Gabriel prefer communicating through pictures?

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**Listen to four speakers. Match them with the topics they talk about.**

Tara	
Magda	
Chris	
Mike	

A important days and online profile

B relationships and texts

C blogs, calls, and writing

D plans and texts

**Is each speaker happy or unhappy about the use of technology? Why / Why not?**



**Which ideas do you agree with?**

- It's rude to cancel by text.
- It's all right to end a relationship by text.
- Social media is the perfect place to say 'Congratulations!'
- I love to get postcards and letters.



**Look at the highlighted adverbs in the article.**

1. Which adverbs make another word stronger?

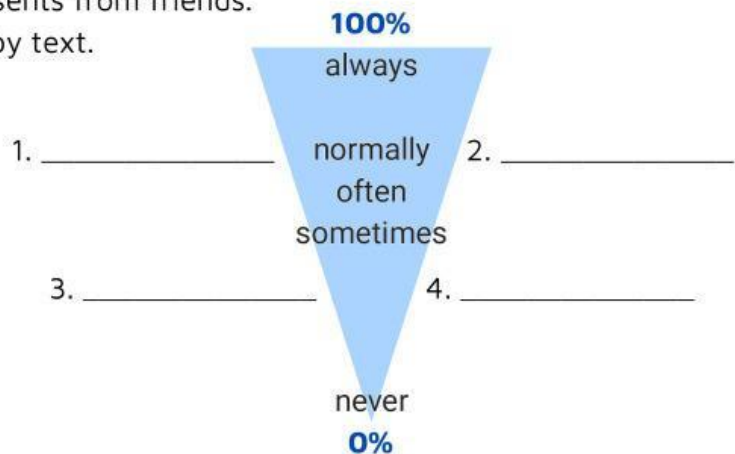
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which adverbs make another word less strong?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Look at the sentences and complete 1–4 with the frequency adverbs.**

- I **usually** just send a text.
- I **hardly ever** get cards or presents from friends.
- I **almost always** cancel plans by text.
- My daughter **rarely** calls me.



**Answer in complete sentences and try to elaborate on your ideas.**

Are these true for you?

1. My friend always cancels plans.
2. I particularly enjoy getting letters.
3. I think social media is fun.
4. I hardly ever write postcards.
5. I usually text my friends.
6. I'm really into blogs.
7. I sometimes text my mum photos.
8. I rarely see my family at weekends.



**Answer the questions using complete sentences. Give reasons for your answers.**

How often do you ...?

- send a text to your boss or teacher to say you are ill
- share important news on social media
- read English-language websites
- send an e-card instead of a real card
- buy presents for people online
- start conversations with new people
- write emails in English
- video call friends and relatives
- send video by text

**Put the words in brackets in the correct place in each sentence.**

1. They see their grandchildren now that they live in Australia. (hardly ever)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I enjoy watching old Hollywood movies. (particularly)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. She hates it when people are late for meetings. (absolutely)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. We go to Italian restaurants, but sometimes we also go to French ones. (generally)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. We're sure his flight arrives at Terminal 2, but I need to check it. (pretty)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. I hope he brings his beautiful sister to the party! (really)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Underline the correct adverbs to complete the sentences.**

1. I love rock music, but I absolutely / especially / fairly like the Foo Fighters. They're my favourite band.
2. He hardly ever / never / especially calls his mother – maybe once or twice a month.
3. I rarely / pretty / usually enjoy horror films, but this one was awful!
4. She's fairly / absolutely / rarely good-looking, but I don't think she's beautiful.
5. I never / absolutely / hardly ever hate maths. I just don't understand it!
6. She usually / particularly / rarely takes her family out for dinner – only when it's her birthday.
7. They love all sports, but they're fairly / really / pretty interested in football. They watch all the matches on TV.
8. It's pretty / usually / rarely cold today, so why don't you take your gloves?

**Listen to Megan and Naomi talking. Choose True or False.**

1. Andrea is choosing some cards to mail to her relatives.
2. Megan often sends postcards when she travels.
3. Megan prefers to share updates from her trips through social networking sites.
4. Naomi and Megan both enjoy using Facebook and Instagram to keep in touch.
5. Andrea's grandparents check her photos online every week.
6. Marco and Jack decided to spend their morning by the sea.
7. Marco enjoys swimming because the water is always warm.
8. The weather is cooler than usual today.

**Is the meaning of the sentences the same or different?**

We hardly ever go out on Sundays.  
We never go out on Sundays.

I'm really into classical music.  
I don't like classical music very much.

Dad rarely comes to see us.  
Dad often comes to see us.

I don't usually wear jeans to work.  
I don't normally wear jeans to work.

The visitors are mainly tourists.  
Most of the visitors are tourists.

The town is fairly busy on Saturdays.  
The town is particularly busy on Saturdays.

It's pretty easy to understand.  
It's not difficult to understand.

The restaurant is generally noisy.  
The restaurant is especially noisy.

**Complete the questionnaire for you.**

Sports	I particularly like _____
Music	I'm really into _____
Food	I absolutely love _____
Free time	In the evenings or at the weekends, I normally _____
Holidays	I hardly ever _____
Friends	We generally _____ We don't generally _____
Studying	I think studying English is pretty _____
Home	I invite people to my home, especially _____