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. It 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?

1. **Both Dominik and Anita miss out words to make sentence sorter and quicker to type. Find the sentences where words are missing and write them out in full.**
   Example Trained delayed 30 mins. = My train has been delayed by 30 minutes

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

   Sorry

   We could skip film and go straight to restaurant

   Perfect

   What time table booked for – can you change?

   9pm.

   Change booking

   See you outside restaurant at 7.

2. **Read the sentences 1-5 below. Put a line through the function words to turn them into texts. Do they still make sense?**
1. My car has broken down. I will be late for dinner.
2. What time is the meeting?
3. Can you buy some milk? I think we've runout.
4. I will be late for work. I'm sorry.
5. The restaurant is fully booked what should we do?11

LIVEWORKSHEETS