

Lesson 7 Instant text messaging

1 Complete the summary with suitable words and phrases from the box.

• sounds • widespread • communication technology • alphabet • popular
• laptop computers • communicating • characters • messaging

Arabish is a modern way of ¹ _____ online when the regular Arabic ² _____ is not available. Instead of Arabic letters, it uses ³ _____ from English to represent the ⁴ _____ of Arabic. Since modern ⁵ _____ first appeared in the 1990s, emails and text messaging have become very ⁶ _____ in the Arab world, particularly with young people.

2 English text messaging has its own style too. Match the abbreviations with the phrases.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 CU L8er | a see you later |
| 2 GR8 | b tomorrow |
| 3 2EZ | c thanks |
| 4 2moro | d laughing out loud (or lots of love) |
| 5 2nite | e tonight |
| 6 1CE | f great |
| 7 LOL | g too easy |
| 8 THX | h once |