

Writing Skills

Messaging

A.1 – We sometimes miss out words in text messages. Observe the examples below.

- 1 Sorry to hear you missed out the job. But you really did well to get that far.
- 2 Apologies for not coming to the party – I wasn't feeling well. Hope to see you soon.
- 3 Can't come to training tonight, as I promised Lottie I'd help with her homework.
- 4 Shame about the tickets. Perhaps get some on eBay?
- 5 Great news about your exams. Well done on your results. You deserved it after all your work.
- 6 Brilliant news! When's the happy day?

A.2 – What words are missing? Drag and drop a word/phrase to complete the blanks.

I	I am	I can't	My	That	What	What a
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1 _____ sorry to hear you missed out the job. But you really did well to get that far.

2 _____ apologies for not coming to the party – I wasn't feeling well. _____ hope to see you soon.

3 _____ come to training tonight, as I promised Lottie I'd help with her homework.

4 _____ shame about the tickets. Perhaps get some on eBay?

5 _____ is great news about your exams. You deserved it after all your work.

6 _____ brilliant news! When's the happy day?

B.1 – Look at some **prepositional phrases** commonly used in text messages.

- 1 **Thanks for** you message. I'm afraid I'll be 20 minutes late because long meeting.
- 2 My **apologies for** not coming to the party – I wasn't feeling well. I hope to see you soon.
- 3 **Congratulations on** your promotion! Not surprised, but very **pleased for** you!
- 4 What a **shame about** the tickets. Perhaps get some on eBay?
- 5 Bad **luck about** your car. Hope the damage wasn't too bad.
- 6 That's great **news about** your exams. **Well done on** your results!

B.2 – Match the words to the correct preposition.

apologies	• about	news	• about
congratulations	• for	pleased	• for
luck	• on		• on
shame		• about	
thanks		• for	
well done		• on	

B.3 – Complete the statements with the correct preposition.

about	about	about	for	for	for	on	on
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- 1 Back luck _____ the flat. I'm sue you'll find another one.
- 2 Good news _____ the tickets – I got the last two! Thanks _____ telling me.
- 3 Congratulations _____ finishing the marathon. We're already pleased _____ you.
- 4 I'm afraid we can't join you on Sunday, because Tina's parents are visting. Apologies _____ that and hope to see you soon.
- 5 Well done _____ getting into Bristol University! That's brilliant!
- 6 Shame _____ the party being cancelled. Hope to see you soon anyway.

Source: Keynote Intermediate – National Geographic/Cengage Learning