

EMAILS, TEXTS & TWEETS



Ten years ago, emails were considered a new way of communicating. Today, texting, tweeting and chatting are the most popular methods of communication among young people. Computers, cell phones and electronics tablets have transformed the world of communication. Words like stamps, post office or correspondence are no longer found in the vocabulary of youths. They have been replaced by words such as: Instagram, Twitter, inbox, hash tag and Facebook. Your pen pal, or should we say, 'key pal', is only a click away.

Nevertheless, everyone does not approve of these new methods of communication. Teachers for example, are of two minds. On the one hand, it is good that students spend more of their free time communicating and as a result get more practice writing. On the other hand, there is very little attention paid to correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Many older people, who are more used to the formal business letter or correspondence, feel that the style of writing in use is too informal. For instance, it is quite common to use first or nick names even though one has never met the person.

Although messaging is a new way of communicating, it will probably never replace telephone calls or ordinary letters. It is just another, very efficient, means of communication.

1. Name TWO devices that have changed the way people communicate in today's society? (2)
2. According to the passage, which of the following groups of words are not very familiar to today's students?
 - a. Inbox, hash tag, twitter
 - b. Texting, tablets, punctuation
 - c. Stamps, post office, letters
 - d. Emails, nicknames, messaging
3. Which of the following best explains the statement. **'Your key pal is only a click away'** as noted in paragraph one of the passage.
 - a. You and your friend can click to each other using the keyboard.
 - b. You can talk with friends quickly and easily on the computer
 - c. You can check to see if you have key pads on the computer.
 - d. You and your key pals are only allowed to click each other once.
4. Complete the chart below to show one advantage and one disadvantage of using the new methods of communicating. (2)

Advantage	Disadvantage

5. Why can this passage be considered an example of non-fiction?

- a. It tells a story
- b. It states facts about a topic
- c. It includes an illustration
- d. It is current and interesting

6. The writer feels that the style of writing in the new methods is too informal. Give the example that is used to support this point of view. (1)

7. In the passage to what does each of the following words refer?

a) "They" – paragraph 1 _____

b) "it" – paragraph 3 _____