

Reading: What kind of communication can't you live without?

A Jeff

I can't imagine life without my mobile phone! I can't stand it when the battery goes dead or when I can't get through to a friend or someone in my family. I always get the latest model, as soon as it comes out. I use my phone all the time. It's like an extension of myself. Anyway, 5 billion people in the world use mobiles, so I'm not alone! I probably text about twenty times a day, but I don't make that many calls because it's expensive. I listen to music when I'm bored, I take photos to send to my friends and I read emails and post comments on my blog.

B Kate

I live in Canada now, but I've only been living here for 6 months. I use Facebook to keep in touch with all my friends from the UK. I signed up when I arrived in Canada. I think it's the best social networking site – well, there are over 200 million active users (400 million if you listen to some people). It's really nice to see photos of my friends and read what they've been doing. I really miss them! I like the fact that it's instant too. You just have to write something and click on the button and it's there.

C Mark

I love YouTube!! It's only been going since 2005 but about 100 million people use it every day! I'm in a band and I upload videos of our songs. Maybe someone will hear them and we'll become famous. It's happened to other people, so why not us? I love listening to music. You can find anything you want there. I've discovered lots of new singers and bands that are really cool. I download lots of clips too.

D Ruth

The Internet, definitely. I'm one of the 1.5 billion people who use it every day. I'm a reporter and I use it to find information. I hate it when my computer crashes and I can't get online. I send a lot of emails too. I follow some forums.

They're useful to find out what people are thinking. I love the fact that I can be sitting on a train and still be connected to the Internet. When I started we only used pen and paper – what a difference!

E Thomas

Letters. I think they're the best way to communicate. I know they're becoming increasingly rare these days, because they're not instant like email or texts. However, I think they're more honest. I read a report that said that people lie 50% more in emails than in hand-written letters. That doesn't surprise me. I love receiving letters and opening them. I read them over and over again – I don't think that's true with emails.

1. Read the text and match. There are two extra sentences that you do not need.

1. 'I like to read about my friends and what they're doing.'
2. 'I wonder if the postman has brought anything.'
3. 'I think message boards are a great way to communicate.'
4. 'I couldn't do my job without it.'
5. 'I hate it when I forget to recharge the battery!'
6. 'Installing new programmes can be difficult.'
7. 'It could help me to fulfill my ambitions.'

2. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

Jeff and Kate both send photos to their friends.

Kate has been using a social networking site for six months.

Mark thinks YouTube should have more variety of videos to download.

Ruth has changed the way she finds information for her job.

People are more truthful in emails than in letters.

Listening:

Listen to a radio programme about music and fashion. Choose the correct answers.

1. Most teenagers in Britain all wore similar clothes until

- a the 1940s.
- b the 1950s.
- c the 1960s.

2. In the 1950s, many teenage boys in Britain

- a didn't have any money to spend.
- b laughed at people who wore Edwardian clothes.
- c started to develop their own fashion look.

3. Which of these did Teds not wear?

- a narrow trousers
- b wide belts
- c long jackets

4. Heavy metal became popular

- a first in Britain, then in America.
- b in both Britain and America at the same time.
- c in America first.

5. By the 1970s in Britain,

- a the Teds started to listen to country music.
- b there was a new kind of music called punk rock.
- c people hadn't heard heavy metal music at all.

Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1. Before the 1950s, the kind of clothes you wore depended on how rich you were.
- 2. The Teds got their name from the places where they used to meet.
- 3. There were a lot of fights between different gangs of Teds.
- 4. After rock and roll started there was a fashion for 'bad boys' for the first time.
- 5. Heather doesn't think there was much variety in fashion by the 1970s.

Writing:

For each question, write the correct word. Write one word for each gap.

New Year's Day

New Year is one of the most popular festivals in the world, even though it is celebrated (1) different times in different ways. In many western countries, people get together with family and friends on December 31 to eat, drink, and dance as they wait for January 1. Some of the biggest parties (2) held on New Year's Eve. In many cities, crowds gather in the centre of town to welcome the new year at midnight (3) fireworks.

For many Asian countries like China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, the New Year is based on a lunar calendar. The date changes from year to year, but usually falls (4) January 21 and February 21. It is traditionally seen as a time for family reunions, with people travelling across the country and from overseas. Many people wear red clothes, as it is thought to be a lucky colour. They also give "lucky money" in red envelopes to friends and family, and (5) off firecrackers to scare away bad luck. What's common among these celebrations is the meaning of the new year; it is a time to (6) goodbye to the past and to think about new beginnings.



Hello! My name's Steve Mc Manaman. I come from Glasgow in Scotland, but now I live and work in London. I have a very small flat near the centre. It looks very beautiful. I live there with two friends, Bobby Robson and Alex Brown. I am a waiter and I'm also a drama student. I work part-time in an Italian restaurant. I eat Italian food. I don't drink beer. I don't like it. I speak French, but I don't speak German. And I don't play sports. I want to be an actor. My roommate Alex plays sports every day, he wants to be an athlete, but he doesn't like acting. He says arts are for girls. His sister, Susan, loves music, but she doesn't love sports. Bobby studies business. He wants to be a businessman. He doesn't like acting too. What does he like then? I don't know. Now tell me about yourself; what do you want to be?