

- a Here are some pics of Jim and the girls. As you can see, little Bela isn't so little anymore. She's growing up fast and is starting school soon. Helen is studying for her end-of-year exams and Jim is still working at dad's shop. I'm doing too much as usual! BTW Looking for recipe for strawberry cheesecake. Anyone?
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- b Hey guys! Everybody's invited to a party at Kathy's Saturday from 9pm. There'll be live music in the shape of The Celtic Band and a surprise DJ from midnight. Kathy will be cooking her special pasta and I'll be doing what I do best – nothing! LOL Bring a friend and let's party.
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- c Went to Mario's for supper last night. Had amazing time. Jenny and Jackie were there and all the gang from the market. Later we all went into town for a drink. FYI got all the latest news about Billy's cycle trip around the world. Interested?
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- d Anyone have a laptop I can borrow ASAP? My PC died suddenly this morning :-(and I have to finish a translation job by next Wednesday. Promise to look after it and return it in perfect condition. Please help.

2 Read the short messages posted on a social networking site and match the messages with the people.

- 1 Tom is asking people to come to a social event.

- 2 Helen is looking for someone to lend her something.

- 3 Jennifer is sharing news about her family.

- 4 Jack is updating people about things he's done and people he's seen. _____

3 Find these words in the messages.

- 1 an informal word for photographs
- 2 not recorded
- 3 after 12 pm
- 4 very enjoyable
- 5 a group of friends
- 6 to use something that belongs to someone else

Writing skills: ellipsis

Ellipsis is the practice of leaving words out of a sentence when they are not necessary for understanding it. It makes written sentences similar to spoken sentences and is used a lot in short messages.

4 Look at these examples from the messages and write the complete sentences.

- 1 Looking for recipe for strawberry cheesecake.
- 2 Anyone?
- 3 Went to Mario's for supper last night.
- 4 Had amazing time.
- 5 Interested?
- 6 Anyone have a laptop I can borrow?

Language focus: abbreviations

6 Look for the abbreviations in the messages and match them with the words and phrases with the same meaning.

ASAP	BTW	DJ	FYI	LOL	PC
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- 1 _____ here's something you should know
- 2 _____ very funny
- 3 _____ a person who plays recorded music
- 4 _____ home computer
- 5 _____ here's something unrelated
- 6 _____ very quickly

7 Complete the missing words in the abbreviations.

- 1 as soon as p_____
- 2 by the w_____
- 3 d_____ jockey
- 4 for your i_____
- 5 l_____ out loud
- 6 p_____ computer

Preparing to write

8 Read the Writing task below. Before you start writing, complete these sentences with your own ideas and use the completed sentences to help you plan your writing.

- 1 You have an extra ticket for _____ and want someone to go with you.
- 2 You have uploaded some photos of _____.
- 3 You want to sell a/an _____.
- 4 You are looking for a copy of _____.

Writing

Write four short messages using a maximum of 50 words. Include one abbreviation in each message. Choose from the options below.

Useful language

- Does anyone ...
- As you can see ...
- This is a picture of ...
- There'll be ...
- Had amazing time ...
- Please help.