

TEXTING

I. What do these abbreviations mean? Work in pairs and figure out their meaning.

CUL8R	<i>see you later</i>	BF	
LOL		GFI	
4ever		HAGD	
WUCIWUG		RU there?	
v		STU	
vvv		shhh	
gr8		TYVM	
ILNY		UOK?	
EZ		w/e	
GF		zzz	

II. Read the text and answer the questions.

Texting and literacy

Lately, some people have been concerned that the explosion in text messaging among young people is having a negative effect on their literacy skills. However, a recent study at the department of communication and science at City University in London compared the spelling and punctuation of 11 and 12-year old texters and non-texters, finding no significant differences between the two groups.

It is important when texting to be fast and concise. This is to save on time and space. A reader who is unfamiliar with texting will feel lost when they see abbreviations, acronyms and emoticons. For texters, this 'language' is easy to read and easy to write.

The debate about the harmful effects of texting started a few years ago. Teachers began noticing examples of texting language in their students' exam papers. One case, a 13-year-old Scottish girl who wrote an entire description of her summer holidays in text language, became famous. Her teacher sent a sample of the essay to a national newspaper and readers sent in hundreds of letters giving their opinion.

1. Who started the debate about the possible danger of texting?
2. What did researchers from City University in London found?
3. How do readers who are not familiar with texting feel when they read abbreviations and emoticons?

III. Read the text again and circle the correct option.

1. Some people think that young people who **don't send / send** a lot of text messages, write badly.
2. A recent study compared the **literacy / exam** results of children who text and children who don't text.
3. The results of the text showed that there was **hardly any / quite a big** difference between the two groups.
4. Texters try to write their message **in code / using very few words**.
5. A **Scottish girl / teacher** sent some text to the newspaper.

IV. This is part of an essay written by a Scottish 13-year-old secondary school pupil. Read the texting and 'translate' it into English.

My smmr hols wr CWOT. B4, we used 2 go 2 NY 2C my bro, his GF & thr 3 :- @ kds FTF. ILNY, its gr8.

Bt my Ps wr so {:-/ BC o 9/11 tht thay dcdd 2 stay in SCO & spnd 2 wks up N.

Up N, WUCIWUG -- 0. I ws vvv brd in MON. 0 bt baas & ^^

Translate the text: