

## Reading

- 8 Read the article about the language of text messages. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose the best sentences (A–F) to complete the article. There is one extra sentence.

### Reading, writing and ... texting!

Next time one of your parents tells you to stop sending text messages to your friends, you can tell them that you're actually doing something educational. Recent research suggests that using 'textese' – the language of texting and social media communication – might not be as bad for you as they think. (1) .....

A study carried out in the UK found that young people who frequently sent text messages also had a good command of standard English. (2) ..... They then compared them with their general spelling and grammatical abilities. They discovered that those who frequently used abbreviations like 'wanna' and '2nite' in their messages were able to use correct spellings and grammatical forms in other contexts.

This research has several implications as far as text messaging and language learning are concerned. First of all, it seems that users of 'textese' are aware of how to write complete words and sentences in English, but choose not to do so when they are sending messages. (3) .....

What's more, it seems that using this kind of language may actually improve literacy skills. One possible explanation for this is that in order to shorten words, you have to understand how the sounds of a word relate to its spelling. (4) ..... Similarly, in order to work out the meaning of a shortened word, you need the same kind of skills that you need to read any word in English.

This is good news for parents and teachers who have been worried that 'textese' is damaging children's ability to read and write properly. It now seems that texting may give students' valuable practice in these skills and could even be used in an educational context. (5) ..... However, there is no reason why they shouldn't let them use this form of English if they need to record information quickly – when taking notes during lessons, for example.

- A For example, you can only use 'gr8' to mean 'great' if you know that 'great' rhymes with the number 'eight'.
- B That's why most young people prefer using 'textese' to standard English.
- C In fact, being able to communicate in this way may be a sign of creativity and language ability.
- D It's understandable that teachers may still want students to switch their phones off in the classroom.
- E Researchers at the University of Coventry looked at the text messages sent by 234 primary, secondary and university students.
- F Since the purpose of a text message is to communicate information as quickly as possible, this seems quite sensible.

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- 9 Read the article again. Are these statements True (T), False (F) or is the information Not Mentioned (NM)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 The article focuses on some of the benefits of electronic communication. <span style="float: right;">T/F/NM</span>                 | 4 Sending text messages seems to have a bad influence on language skills. <span style="float: right;">T/F/NM</span>                     |
| 2 According to the article, most young people communicate through text messages. <span style="float: right;">T/F/NM</span>           | 5 According to the writer, students should be allowed to send text messages in the classroom. <span style="float: right;">T/F/NM</span> |
| 3 Research shows that the language young people use depends on what they are using it for. <span style="float: right;">T/F/NM</span> |   |

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**Total / 10**