

Keep your English
up to date

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 7

Text



BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH



bbclearningenglish.com
© British Broadcasting Corporation 2005

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 7: Text

CONTENTS

1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
2. Lesson stages
3. Answers
4. Tapescripts
5. Student worksheets 1, 2, 3

Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Mobile phones and communication

Language: Text, texting, texter

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Understanding text language

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises, listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and writing
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page8.shtml

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 7: Text

LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about a development in technology that has brought a new word in to the language

B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

C

Students do the **Vocabulary Exercise 2**, without dictionaries at first. Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

D

Students read **Listening Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk. They answer the questions.

Students listen again and answer **Listening Exercise 4**

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**

Students read and do **Listening Exercise 5**

Students listen to section 2 of the talk and check their answer for **Listening Exercise 5**

F

Students try to answer **Listening Exercise 6**. They listen again to **Listening Section 2** to check/complete their answers.

G

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**. For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the tapescript and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work looks at 'text speak' – the language used when writing texts.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 7: Text

TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

'Text' is one of these new words that have come into English as a result of the internet revolution and especially, this time, the cell phone revolution. Cell phones didn't exist well, 5, 10 years ago, they weren't around and as soon as they came along, people started using them to send messages to each other. So, first as a noun, you had the noun 'text' and now you have the verb 'to text', which is to send a written message using a mobile phone or a cell phone if you use that expression instead.

It isn't new actually. Although the verb 'to text' is a modern feature of today's English, you can actually trace it back to the 16th century when 'to text', in those days, was to write something in very large letters, in capital letters, in 'text hand'.

Listening Section 2

And, if you look it up in a big dictionary these days, you'll often be told "this verbal use is now rather rare". Well it was rare until about 4 or 5 years ago. Since then of course, everybody's been using it, and it's produced a whole new family of words.

You can now 'text' somebody of course, but you can be engaged in the noun 'texting'. And then you've got 'text messaging' which is a fuller form of the idea of texting somebody. And the people who send messages to each other are called 'texters', and the whole language of abbreviated communication that you can use - introducing abbreviated forms into your text message, in order to make it as succinct and as quick to send as possible. Well, what's the name for that? There isn't an agreed name at the moment - but I call it 'text speak'.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 7: Text

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

- 2.
- | | |
|---|--|
| a. revolution | a complete change in the way people do something |
| b. cell phone | a mobile telephone |
| c. to trace something back to the past | to follow the history of something, from the present to the past |
| d. verbal | spoken rather than written |
| e. abbreviated | shortened or reduced in length |
| f. succinct | clear and not containing many words |

LISTENING SECTION 1

- 3.
- a. text
 - b. a noun and a verb
 - c. a new use of an old verb
- 4.
- a. True – as a result of the cell phone revolution
 - b. False – you had the noun and now you have the verb
 - c. False – texting is by phone only
 - d. True – to write in capital letters

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5.
- Real words are texter, texting, text messaging
- 6.
- a. False – it was rare until about 4 or 5 years ago
 - b. True – introducing abbreviated forms into your text
 - c. False – there isn't an agreed name yet

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 7: Text

EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. to exist
- b. capital letters
- c. to be engaged in something

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. vi. today
- b. iv. before
- c. i. love
- d. viii. lots of love
- e. ii. no one
- f. vii. someone
- g. iii. thanks
- h. v. weekend

3.

- a. LOL
- b. 2DAY, B4, NO1, SUM1
- c. WKND
- d. LUV
- e. THNX (c and d), SUM1 (b and d)

4.

- a. R U OK?
- b. GR8
- c. NE1
- d. I C
- e. 2moro
- f. C U L8R
- g. BTW
- h. wan2

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Text

WORKSHEET 1

You are going to listen to a short talk given by Professor David Crystal about language change and new developments in English.

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. How often do you use the phone? Who do you use it to contact?
- b. Do you have a mobile phone?
- c. Do you use email? Who do you contact with it?
- d. Do you ever write letters or send cards to people? Who to?
- e. Do you ever send faxes?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. revolution | spoken rather than written |
| b. cell phone | a complete change in the way people do something |
| c. to trace something back to the past | clear and not containing many words |
| d. verbal | shortened or reduced in length |
| e. abbreviated | a mobile telephone |
| f. succinct | to follow the history of something, from the present to the past |

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Text

LISTENING SECTION 1

- 3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a word that has come from recent developments in communication and technology. Answer these questions.**
- a. What word does he talk about?
 - b. Is this word a noun, verb or adjective?
 - c. As a verb, is it a new verb or a new use of an old verb?
- 4. Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.**
- a. Text came into English because of changes in telephone technology
 - b. The modern verb appeared before the modern noun
 - c. To text is the same as to send an email
 - d. In the past, to text meant to write in a special way

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Text

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Which of the following words do you think are real words that have come from ‘to text’?

texter textive texting textation text messaging text noting

Listen to Section 2 of the talk and check your ideas. Were you correct?

6. **Are the following sentences true or false?**

- a. The spoken use of the word is unusual
- b. Text messages use shortened forms of words
- c. The official name for the language used in texts is ‘text speak’.

Listen again to check your answers.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English Up to Date

Text

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

1 Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.

- a. to be in the world, to be
- b. writing that LOOKS LIKE THIS
- c. to be doing something

LANGUAGE

2. Look at the examples of text speak and match them to their translations

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| a. 2DAY | i. love |
| b. B4 | ii. no one |
| c. LUV | iii. thanks |
| d. LOL | iv. before |
| e. NO1 | v. weekend |
| f. SUM1 | vi. today |
| g. THNX | vii. someone |
| h. WKND | viii. lots of love |

3. Text speak is formed in different ways. Find examples above of these ways given below

- a. The first letters of a common phrase are used to make an acronym/abbreviation
- b. Numbers are used to represent sounds in words
- c. The vowels are left out of the word
- d. Spellings are changed, to make the word shorter
- e. A mixture of two of the techniques

4. How do you think you write the following words/phrases in text speak?

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| a. Are you okay? | c. anyone | e. tomorrow | g. by the way |
| b. Great | d. I see | f. see you later | h. want to |