

Text Messages

Since most students have mobile phones, most of them need to be able to read and write text messages. Students will have plenty of questions about messages they have received and messages they want to send.

Age Group: Young Adults/ Adults

Level: Entry 3

Time: at least 1 hour

Skill focus: Abbreviations and text message language, reading for meaning.

Sub skills: Basic punctuation (capitals, full stops, and apostrophes)

Materials: Worksheets

Curriculum References: Rw/E3.7a Rt/L1.5a

1. Although it's a constant battle getting students to turn their mobile phones off, ask them to write down the last text message they received in English. There will be a lot of number punching and scribbling. Write some examples on the board. It will probably be full of mistakes; correct them. Make students aware that text messages are informal and usually grammatically incorrect.
2. Give out worksheet one and get them to work through the questions. Answers as follows: 1.D 2.A 3.H 4.J 5.G 6.I 7.K 8.C 9.B 10. F 11. E
 1. See you later.
 2. I'll be there before eight.
 3. You forgot your coat.
 4. Where are you?
 5. I'm waiting for you outside.
 6. I'm going to meet Dave at ten o'clock. I'll see you there.
 7. Can you pick me up at eight o'clock? Is that OK?
 8. Don't forget to call me.
 9. Call me as soon as possible.
 10. What are you doing tonight mate?

You can now have a go at the next worksheets. First give out the text messages and get students to read them out loud. Make sure they understand the words and the overall meaning. You might also get students to think about who wrote the text messages, a girlfriend, a friend, or someone else.

3. Now they can do the comprehension. Answers as follows.
 - a. 11 b.5 c.10 d.6 e.1+8 f.4 g.7 h.14 i.9 j.3

4. Corrected sentences are as follows. The words in bold are corrections.
1. Babe. I had a **fabulous night**. **I'll see you later**. Call me.
 2. What **are you doing tonight**? Come to my house and we'll get **some** pizza.
 3. Can you send me **Dave's** number **as soon as possible**? Cheers **mate**.
 4. It's now half past eight and **I'm** still **waiting**. If you're not here in ten minutes **I'm** going home. **I'm** stood in front of the cinema.
 5. **You** have won £200. To claim your free prize call 08909 43434343. All calls cost £1.50 per minute.
 6. **That** sounds good. **I'll** meet you at the gym **at** 5.00.
 7. How are you Ahmed? **Did you** get home okay last night?
 8. **I** really enjoyed your company at the weekend. **We** have to do it again soon.
 9. Can you get me a can of coke while **you're** at the pizza shop?
 10. Can we get a lift back with you this afternoon **at** about two o'clock outside the station?
 11. Mum, phone me when **you** get this text (**message**).
 12. So, what **are you** wearing tonight? I'm wearing my pink top and my pink boots.
 13. **Do** you fancy coming out tonight? **We'll** have a laugh in town.
 14. Don't bother calling me again. After what **you** did last night **it's** over. Loser.
 15. Are you going to come out tonight? I've booked a table at the restaurant, but I'll cancel if **you're** not going to come. Please let me **know**.
 16. **What's** the name of that place in London where we stayed last month? I need to know **as soon as possible**.

Chris Speck 05/01/04

Text Message language

Match the text message language with the good English

Text Message	Good English
1. l8r	a. you
2. u	b. before
3. c	c. mate
4. 2	d. later
5. xx	e. As soon as possible
6. lol	f. are you
7. ur	g. kiss kiss
8. m8	h. see
9. b4	i. laugh out loud
10. r u	j. to
11. ASAP	k. your

Text messages are very short and the grammar is often incorrect. Write the following messages out in grammatically correct English. Use full stops, capital letters and good spelling.

1. c u l8r
2. ill be there b4 8
3. you forgot ur coat
4. were r u?
5. im w8ing for u outside
6. going to meet dave at 10. c u there.....
7. can u pick me up? 8 ok?
8. dont forget to call me
9. call me ASAP
10. wot u doing today m8?



Text Messages

Answer the questions about the text messages.

- a) Which message is to your mother?
- b) Which message wants to take your money?
- c) Which message is asking for a lift?
- d) Which message is arranging a meeting at 5?
- e) Which two texts say 'thank you'?
- f) Which message is saying you are late?
- g) Which message asks how you are?
- h) Which text is very, very angry?
- i) Which message is asking for a drink?
- j) Which text is asking for Dave's number?

All the messages have a mistake. Rewrite the message and correct the mistakes.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____



Text Messages

1

babe I had
fab nite c
u l8r. Call
me

2

What u
doing 2nite!
Come to my
house and
we'll get
pizza

3

Can you
send me
daves
number
ASAP.
Cheers

4

**It's now half
past 8 and im
still w8ing. If
you're not here
in ten minutes
im going home.
Stood in front of
cinema.**

5

Your have
won £200. To
claim your
prize call
08909
43434343. All
calls cost
£1.50 per min.

6

Sounds
good.
Meet
you at
the gym
5.00

7

How are
you
Ahmed?
you get
home okay
last night?

8

Really
enjoyed your
company at
the weekend
have to do it
again soon.

9

Can you get
me a can of
coke while
your at the
Pizza shop?

10

Can we get
a lift back
with you
this
afternoon
About two
outside the
station.

11

Mum,
phone me
when u
get this
text.

12

So what u
wearing
tonight I'm
wearing my
pink top and
pink boots.

13

Fancy
coming out
tonight.
Well have a
laugh in
town.

14

Don't
bother
calling me
again. After
what u did
last night
its over.
Loser.

15

Are you going
to come out
tonight? I
booked a table
at the
restaurant, but
I'll cancel it if ur
not going to
come. Please
let me no.

16

Whats the
name of that
place in
London
where we
stayed last
month? Need
to know
ASAP.