

Unit 4 Language

4.2 Languages and Texting

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Aims and Demand

Language

- learn and master the new words and expressions in this lesson
- learn (more) about the conventions of English in SMS texting
- revise the future meanings of will, going to and the present continuous

Skills

- practise listening to a conversation and reading a text to extract specific information
- extend your knowledge of the meaning and form of allow, permit and let
- practise your fluency in expressing opinions



Aims and Demand

Ideology and Politics

- discuss the advantages and disadvantages of cyber expressions;
- avoid using cyber expressions in any formal occasion;
- use good English as often as possible to develop the spirit of preciseness.



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Listening

1 Do you text? If yes, why and how often? If not, why not?

2a Listen to two friends at university, Howard and Fred, talking on the phone. What is the reason for the phone call?



Fred is calling Howard to invite him to the cinema.





2b Listen again and complete the sentences. Use the word in brackets to help you.

- 1 Fred is going to finish his essay tonight . (when?)
- 2 Howard is going to finish his essay by tomorrow . (when?)
- 3 Fred is going to the cinema with James . (who?)
- 4 Fred is going to the cinema on Thursday . (when?)
- 5 Howard's presentation is on Friday . (when?)
- 6 Howard and Fred will see each other at the lecture tomorrow . (when?)





2 Fred sends Howard a text message after the phone call. Which of these three text messages is the one that Fred sent?

1

Found article
on txtng.
Will
bring 2moro
2 lecture.
Good luck
with writing
pres.

2

Found article
on spelling.
Will bring
2moro 2
lecture. Good
luck with
writing pres.

3

Sorry. Can't
find article.
Think can
remember
main points.
Tell u in
seminar on
Fri.

Fred sent text 1.





GRAMMAR: future forms

3a Look at Track 2.21 on page 172. Underline all the ways of expressing the future that you can find.  **Script**

The examples are underlined in the audioscript above. (Note: “Do you know what you’re doing?” and “I’m doing mine on spelling” may refer to the future or to the present. The context does not make the time reference completely clear.)





3b Look at your underlined examples in the audioscript and find an example of:

1 a prediction about the future

will be the English of the future / I'll see you at the lecture tomorrow.

2 a decision made at the time of speaking

I'll find it for you / I'll text you when I find that paper.



3b Look at your underlined examples in the audioscript and find an example of:

3 an intention for the future

I'm going to finish it tonight / I'm definitely going to finish it by tomorrow's class.

4 a fixed arrangement, plan or programme

James and I are going to the cinema on Thursday evening / I'm giving my presentation to the language seminar group on Friday.

(Note: see the note above in the answers to Ex 3a.)



3c Complete the rules with will, going to or the present continuous.



- 1 We use will to talk about unplanned decisions and promises that we make at the time of speaking, and to make predictions about the future.
- 2 We use present continuous to talk about fixed future arrangements, usually involving other people.
- 3 We use going to to talk about plans or intentions
(something which you have already decided).





4 Work with a partner. Look at part of another conversation between Howard and Fred. Choose the best answer and discuss the reasons for your choice.

F: I've made a decision. ¹ I'm going to take / I'll take a Masters Course in Communication. The course ² will challenge / is challenging me but I think I can manage it. What about you?

H: Not sure. I haven't made any arrangements yet but I think ³ I'm taking / I'll take a postgraduate course. ⁴ I'm not knowing / I won't know my exam results till the end of August. ⁵ I'm probably deciding / I'll probably decide then.





4 Work with a partner. Look at part of another conversation between Howard and Fred. Choose the best answer and discuss the reasons for your choice.

F: Sounds good. Oh, I've arranged to meet Richard on Wednesday for a band practice. ⁶ We're meeting / We'll meet at 5 p.m. Do you want to join us?

H: Sorry, but ⁷ I'm playing / I'm going to play tennis with Fran then.

F: OK, how about going for a coffee now?

H: Sorry, I'm so tired. I think ⁸ I'll go / I'm going home now.



READING



5 How important is correct spelling in a language? What about correct grammar? Are you good at spelling and grammar in your language?





6a Read the website opposite. Underline the arguments for and against texting.

Arguments for:

Texting is just a modern means of communication; teachers who want to ban it are “old-fashioned”; children need to learn to communicate in a range of ways; text is a new type of language and teachers should learn it





6a Read the website opposite. Underline the arguments for and against texting.

Arguments against:

A negative effect on young people's literacy skills; texting is preventing young people from writing properly; good grammar, spelling and sentence structure is forgotten; SMS users are not able to write correct English; we'll never get a good education if we keep using text language; it will create problems for teachers — most of them don't understand text language; it will affect your spelling when you're older





6b

Complete the summary below using the words in the box. There are more words than you need to fill the gaps.

Affected	listening	increasing	teachers	literacy
improve	means	understanding	students	allowed

It is clear that the use of SMS is ¹ increasing . But some teachers believe that the ² literacy skills of young people may be ³ affected if they use text for everything. These teachers believe that good grammar, spelling and sentence structure will suffer if texting is ⁴ allowed in class. Other teachers disagree and say that texting is just another modern ⁵ means of communication. Young people have different points of view. One person argued that education will suffer if we keep using text language instead of correct English. However, another view was that text is just a new type of language, and that the first people to learn SMS should be ⁶ teachers .





VOCABULARY: *allow, permit, let*

7 Look up the words *allow, permit* and *let* in a good dictionary and answer the questions below.

1 Which is the most formal of the words? Which is the most informal?

Most formal = permit. Most informal = let. (Note: all the words have the same meaning. *Permit* as a verb has a stress on the second syllable, as a noun it is on the first syllable.)

2 Which of the following sentences is / are incorrect?

- a) The visa permits you to study for two months.
- b) My father would never allow me to study English.
- c) Let me to go. You're hurting me.

c) is incorrect because we do not use *to* after *let*.





SPEAKING

8 Work with a partner to discuss the following.

- 1 Texting seriously affects young people's ability to write good English.
- 2 Texting will be permitted in exams within five years.
- 3 Students will soon prefer to study British English rather than American English.
- 4 In twenty years' time, nobody will write letters.





Thank you!

