

### 1. Text and email language

This week's lesson looks at the language of text messages and emails, in particular the popular abbreviations that constitute 'text speak'.

#### Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

#### How to use the lesson

1. Ask the students how the language they use in text messages and emails differs from their writing in other contexts. Do they know any of the popular text abbreviations in English?

2. Divide the students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A. Give them a few minutes to do Exercise 1, in which they have to try to work out the meaning of the different examples of text speak.

3. Check answers in open class.

**Answers:** 1. before 2. see you later 3. no problem 4. thinking of you  
5. are you free to talk? 6. waiting for you 7. thanks 8. can't wait to see you 9. easy  
10. bye for now 11. at the moment 12. or 13. please 14. laughing out loud  
15. let me know 16. got to go

4. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and give the students five to ten minutes to read through the text, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary.

5. When the time is up, hand out copies of Worksheet C and give the students at least five minutes to complete the crossword.

6. Check answers in open class.

**Answers:** 1. appropriate 2. electronic 3. understand 4. hello 5. abbreviations 6. word  
7. summarise 8. literature 9. know 10. save 11. common 12. disappear

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *at the weekend* will read from top to bottom.

### 2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.sms-text-guide.com/text-speak-z.html>

An online dictionary of text speak.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4440000/newsid\\_4445300/4445314.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4440000/newsid_4445300/4445314.stm)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4440000/newsid\\_4445600/4445620.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4440000/newsid_4445600/4445620.stm)

Two pages from the BBC *Newsround* website (2005) on the mobile phone service that offered to summarise famous pieces of literature in text language. The second page has examples of famous stories reduced to a couple of lines of text speak – be sure to point out that most of the language is not standard English! Challenging for pre-intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3125891.stm>

An article from the BBC website about the rise of text and email language, and the way in which traditional greetings like 'hello' are apparently being replaced. Intermediate level and above.