

## LISTENING

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

2a **1.21** Listen to two friends at university, Howard and Fred, talking on the phone. What is the reason for the phone call?

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

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

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

1	2	3
Found article on texting. Will bring 2 more 2 lecture. Good luck with writing pres.	Found article on spelling. Will bring 2 more 2 lecture. Good luck with writing pres.	Sorry. Can't find article. Think can remember main points. Tell u in seminar on Fri.

## GRAMMAR: future forms

3a Look at Track 1.21 on page 172. Underline all the ways of expressing the future that you can find.

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

- 1 a prediction about the future
- 2 a decision made at the time of speaking
- 3 an intention for the future
- 4 a fixed arrangement, plan or programme

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

- 1 We use \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about fixed future arrangements, usually involving other people.
- 3 We use \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about plans or intentions (something which you have already decided).

➔ Language reference and extra practice, pages 140–141

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. <sup>1</sup>*I'm going to take / I'll take* a Masters Course in Communication. The course <sup>2</sup>*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 <sup>3</sup>*I'm taking / I'll take* a postgraduate course. <sup>4</sup>*I'm not knowing / I won't know* my exam results till the end of August. <sup>5</sup>*I'm probably deciding / I'll probably decide* then.

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

H: Sorry, but <sup>7</sup>*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 <sup>8</sup>*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.

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 <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_. But some teachers believe that the <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_ skills of young people may be <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_ if they use text for everything. These teachers believe that good grammar, spelling and sentence structure will suffer if texting is <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_ in class. Other teachers disagree and say that texting is just another modern <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_ 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 <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.



**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?
- 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.

**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.

## Is SMS good for young people?

Does SMS seriously affect young people's ability to write good English?

Recently, a Scottish teenager wrote her entire English exam in text language. Should she be allowed to do that?

SMS is on the increase but is it sending the right message to young people and teachers? Some teachers believe that SMS is having a negative effect on young people's literacy skills.

They say that texting is preventing young people from writing properly. Because texting is fast and users have to be brief, good grammar, spelling and sentence structure is forgotten.

As a result, young SMS users are not able to write correct English.

Other teachers, however, say that young people should be permitted to express themselves and that texting is just a modern means of communication. Teachers who want to ban it are 'old-fashioned'. One educational expert commented: 'Children need to learn to communicate in a range of ways.'

A lot of teachers and lecturers refer to the story of the teenager who wrote an entire English essay in text language. Her essay started: 'My summr hols wr CWOT. B4, we used 2go2 NY 2C my bro. ILNY, it's a gr8 plc.' The translation of this is: 'My summer holidays were a complete waste of time. Before, we used to go to New York to see my brother. I love New York. It's a great place.'



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→ Text language should only be used for texting! (That's why it's called TEXT language.) We'll never get a good education if we keep using text language instead of correct English.

**Lucy, 17, Oxford**

→ I don't think that students should be allowed to text because it will create problems for the teachers. Most of them simply don't understand text language.

**Chris, 18, Leeds**

→ No way! I think it's OK for emails and texts, but NOT for schoolwork, because it will affect your spelling when you're older.

**Jordan, 16, London**

→ I think teachers should let us use text in classes. Over thousands of years our language has changed a lot. Text is a new type of the language and teachers should learn it.

**Ahmed, 17, Bradford**

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