

词汇: communication 交流

The telephone was an amazing invention. People could finally speak to each other **instantly** from one home to another. The **mobile phone** took this technology further, meaning we could **make contact with** people to and from almost anywhere in the world. But despite having the instant ability to talk to one another, it seems many of us prefer to communicate by **text**.

I don't mean we have taken up letter writing again. Although a handwritten letter has a **personal touch**, sending it by **snail mail** is too slow to satisfy our desire to **keep in touch** immediately. But what our **smartphones** now allow us to do is enable us to communicate in any number of quick, cheap but silent ways. A study in the UK a few years ago found 49 per cent of teenagers preferred to send a text rather than speak to someone.

Certainly sending an **SMS**, text or message via a **chat app** means we can **compose** what we want to say, and we can be more efficient in saying it – especially if we **express ourselves** by using **emojis**. It can also be quicker than having to chat with someone, although I feel you can still end up wasting time by having a full discussion by text! **Text messaging** also allows **privacy** – other people can't overhear your text if you're in a public place such as on a train.

But texting instead of talking can seem **antisocial**; we may even forget the art of **pleasantries**. A text can be misinterpreted too because you miss out on a speaker's **intonation**. Neuroscientist Professor Sophie Scott told the BBC: "We always speak with melody and intonation to our voice... you take that channel of information out of communication, you lose another way that sense is being **conveyed**."

Of course texting and talking is the worst thing to do. Who deserves your attention when two people are communicating with you? It's then we have to decide who has the most interesting thing to say!

词汇表

instantly	立即地，马上地
mobile phone	手机
make contact with	与（人）取得联系
text	短信
personal touch	人情味，人性化色彩
snail mail	传统信件，平信
keep in touch	保持联系
smartphone	智能手机
SMS (short message service)	手机短信服务
chat app	聊天软件
compose	撰写（信息，信函等）
express ourselves	表达我们的想法或感受
emoji	表情符号
text messaging	发短信
privacy	隐私
antisocial	不爱社交的，不合群的
pleasantry	客套话
intonation	语调，腔调
convey	表达，传达

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the problem with communicating via 'snail mail'?
2. According to a survey, what did teenagers in the UK prefer, text or talk?
3. Why does texting allow privacy when you are in a public place?
4. What can we use to show our feelings when writing a text message?
5. True or false? *Texting does not show the intonation in your voice.*

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The hotel adds a _____ by putting a chocolate on your pillow before bedtime.

personal touch	privacy	pleasantries	emoji
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2. I need to _____ an email to the company to tell them about their terrible customer service.

communicate	express	compose	convey
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3. He wasn't very good at _____ himself, so I wasn't sure what he was trying to say.

expressed	expressing	expression	express
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4. I need to _____ with my old university friends to try and organise a reunion.

messaging	make contact	intonation	convey
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5. After all the _____, we finally got down to business and discussed the contract.

pleasants	pleasantries	pleasanting	pleasant
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the problem with communicating via 'snail mail'?

Sending a letter via snail mail is too slow to satisfy our desire to keep in touch immediately.

2. According to a survey, what did teenagers in the UK prefer, text or talk?

A study in the UK a few years ago found 49 per cent of teenagers preferred to send a text rather than speak to someone – so it's about the same for both texting and talking.

3. Why does texting allow privacy when you are in a public place?

Because other people can't overhear you talking on the phone.

4. What can we use to show our feelings when texting?

We can use emojis to express ourselves when texting.

5. True or false? *Texting does not show the intonation in your voice.*

True. A text can be misinterpreted because you miss out on a speaker's intonation.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The hotel adds a **personal touch** by putting a chocolate on your pillow before bedtime.

2. I need to **compose** an email to the company to tell them about their terrible customer service.

3. He wasn't very good at **expressing** himself, so I wasn't sure what he was trying to say.

4. I need to **make contact** with my old university friends to try and organise a reunion.

5. After all the **pleasantries**, we finally got down to business and discussed the contract.