

Can't talk atm

1. Using your phone, find a text you sent recently and answer the questions about it.

- Who did you send it to?
- What was it about?

2. In each situation below, say if you would rather a) call, b) text, or c) text and then call. Explain your answer.

- making dinner plans with a friend
- asking a family member how they're doing
- sharing big news, e.g. getting married
- asking a colleague for help with a problem
- apologizing for something you did

3. Discuss the questions.

- How much time do you spend texting every day?
- When communicating online, do you prefer texting, calling, or sending voice notes/messages? Explain your answer.
- Are there any 'texting rules' you follow? What are they?
- What do you think of the following texting rules?
 - Avoid sending long messages.
 - Try not to text early in the morning or late at night.
 - Use spell check and have autocorrect turned on.
 - Always respond or react to each message in a group chat.



4. Match the halves to create sentences about texting habits. The symbols referred to in bold are provided in brackets.

VOCABULARY TIP

exclamation mark (BrEng) = exclamation point (AmEng)

full stop (BrEng) = period (AmEng)

) when I text

because

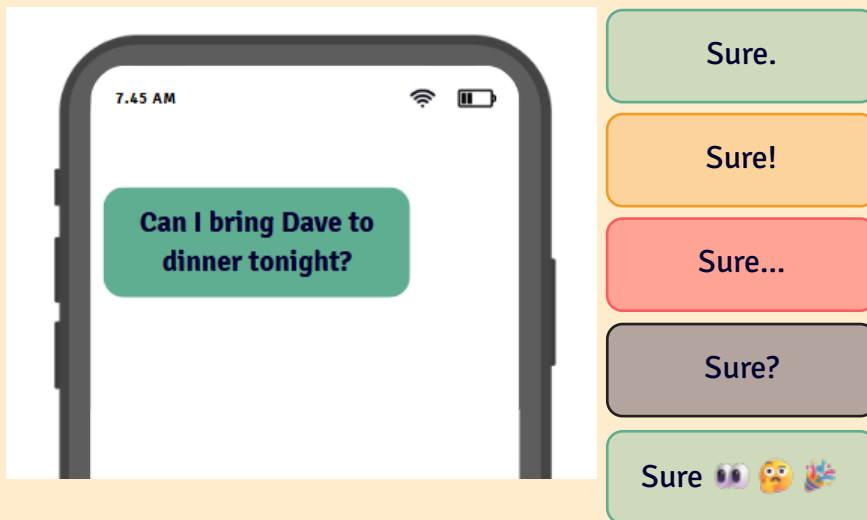
D. I like to use **full stops** (.) because if I don't,

E. I try not to use more than one **question mark** (?) because

F. I only use **commas** (,) if I'm sending a text with

1. a lot of information and the meaning isn't clear.
2. know that I'm confused or annoyed.
3. I feel like I haven't finished my sentence.
4. to show that I'm in a good mood.
5. they help me to express the tone of my message, e.g. if I'm happy or sad.
6. it can look a bit aggressive or angry.

5. You are going to watch part of a comedy show about passive-aggressive texting. Before you watch it, look at the different responses to the text below and say which one(s) you think might be passive aggressive.



6. Watch the first part of the [video](https://youtu.be/07TinrpKG6o) [https://youtu.be/07TinrpKG6o] (to 01:07) and say which response in ex. 5 is passive aggressive, according to the speaker.

7. Watch the second part of the [video](#) (from 01:08) in which we look at responses to the question 'Can you pick up some milk on the way home?'. Match the responses with what they mean, according to the speaker. Two responses have the same meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| A. k | 1. The person has no problem getting the milk. |
| B. Yep. | 2. The person isn't happy about getting the milk but will do it anyway. |
| C. of course | 3. The person is thinking, 'Why can't you get the milk? I've been working all day and you had time'. |
| D. Yup. | |

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8. Discuss the questions.

- “When texting, avoid using periods, ‘yup’s, and ‘ha’s”. Do you agree that we should avoid using these when texting? Why/Why not?
- Did you have the same feelings about the responses to the text messages as the speaker?
- Are there any things that may make a text sound passive aggressive in your language?
- Do you use abbreviations in text messages? Do you know any abbreviations people use in text messages in English?

abbreviation:

a shorter form of a word

9. Read the text messages and work out what the abbreviation in bold might stand for.

EXAMPLES: **Dw** about bringing food over later – I have more than enough.

Don't worry

text 1: Can you send me the pictures from our holiday?

text 2: **Nvm**, I've found them on my phone now!

Never mind

- A. Thanks again for dinner. **Btw**, do I need to send you money for the drinks?
- B. Got your call. Can't talk **atm**, still in school. Will reply later.
- C. I know it's raining but **idc**. Do you still want to go running?
- D. Saw the movie last night. Not great **imo**.
- E. What are you doing **rn**? There's a movie on at 8.00.
- F. Sorry, can't come to lunch tomorrow **bc** I've got a last-minute dentist appointment.
- G. **Ofc** you can call me! Just give me 30 minutes and I'll be free.
- H. I don't really want to go to that party tomorrow **tbh**. Are you going?
- I. Did you see my text about next weekend? **Lmk** if you want to come.
- J. Do you think we should buy Jackie **sth** for her birthday?

10. Choose three messages in ex. 9 and write a response. Use abbreviations where appropriate.

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11. Pick a situation below and a card with an abbreviation and write a message to your partner. They will pick an abbreviation and respond. Then, swap places. Continue until you have used up all the situations.

- Ask your partner about their dinner plans for tonight.
- Tell your partner that you got their call but you're busy shopping.
- Ask your partner what they thought about the new *Gladiator* movie and give your opinion.
- Check if your partner is coming to your birthday party next week.
- Ask your partner if they would like to go for a walk with you.
- See if your partner would be able to bring something for dessert to the dinner party later.