

Texting
Task 1: Translating

CUL8R	<i>see you later</i>	BF	
LOL		GFI	
4ever		HAGD	
WUCIWUG		RU there?	
v		STU	
vvv		shhh	
gr8		TYVM	
ILNY		UOK?	
EZ		w/e	
GF		zzz	

Task 2: Reading
1 Read the text and answer the question.

Who started the debate about the possible danger of texting?

Texting and literacy

Lately, some people have been concerned that the explosion in text messaging among young people is having a negative effect on their literacy skills. However, a recent study at the department of communication and science at City University in London compared the spelling and punctuation of 11 and 12-year old texters and non-texters, finding no significant differences between the two groups.

It is important when texting to be fast and concise. This is to save on time and space. A reader who is unfamiliar with texting will feel lost when they see abbreviations, acronyms and emoticons. For texters, this 'language' is easy to read and easy to write.

The debate about the harmful effects of texting started a few years ago. Teachers began noticing examples of texting language in their students' exam papers. One case, a 13-year-old Scottish girl who wrote an entire description of her summer holidays in text language, became famous. Her teacher sent a sample of the essay to a national newspaper and readers sent in hundreds of letters giving their opinion.

