

Revision: Past Continuous

UNIT 10: Communication

- The **simple past** talks about something that happened before. It happened and it finished. Some words are regular and just have **-ed** added at the end like *walked, helped, and played*. Others are irregular and have many variations like *ate, began, and slept*. The **past continuous** talks about something that was happening before, *but for a period of time*. It uses **was or were + verb-ing** like *was eating or were playing*. It gives a background for something that was happening while a different event happened.
- Example: While I *was eating*, the telephone rang.
- So, during the time I was eating (let's say from 6:30-7:00 p.m.) somebody called my house (let's say they called at 6:49p.m.) One thing happened (simple past) during the period of time another thing was happening (**past continuous**)
- Here is another example: They saw an old man as they were walking down the street.
- You can think of *walking* as a video. You see the movement. You see the time passing. Think of *saw* as a photo. It is one point of time. You don't think of the time passing.
- I dreamed in English when I was sleeping.
She was listening to the radio when the mail came.
They visited Sydney when they were traveling in Australia.

- When I (do) _____ the washing-up, I (break) _____ a plate.
- While Tom (play) _____ the piano, his mother (do) _____ the washing-up.
- He (drink) _____ some juice and then he (eat) _____ a few chips.
- I (have) _____ dinner when I suddenly (hear) _____ a loud bang.
- When my father (work) _____ in the garden, an old friend (pass) _____ by to see him.
- She (go) _____ to school, (take) _____ out her textbook and (begin) _____ to read.
- When it (start) _____ to rain, our dog (want) _____ to come inside.
- When Jane (do) _____ a language course in Ireland, she (visit) _____ Blarney Castle.
- When I (be) _____ on my way home, I (see) _____ an accident.
- I (not / understand) _____ what they (talk) _____ about.


1. was doing, I broke
2. was playing, was doing
3. He drank, he ate
4. I was having, I suddenly heard
5. was working, passed
6. She went, took, began
7. started, wanted
8. was doing, she visited
9. I was, I saw
10. I did not understand, were talking

Unit 10

Communication

In Unit 10, you learn how to . . .

- make comparisons with adjectives.
- use *more* and *less* with nouns and verbs.
- talk about different ways of communicating.
- manage phone conversations.
- interrupt and restart conversations on the phone.
- use *just* to soften things you say.



Keeping in touch

How do you keep in touch with people?



Alma Jones

"I usually use e-mail. It's quicker and easier than anything else. But I get a lot of spam. There's nothing worse than spam when you're really busy."



Tim Henry

"I like to write letters. I know regular mail is slower than e-mail, but letters are more personal. And I never send those e-cards. I just think it's nicer to get a real card."



Mayumi San

"I send text messages to my friends all day. It's more fun than calling. And you can send photos, too. Too bad I can't do it in class."



Kayla Johnson

"Well, at work we use video conferencing. It's less expensive than a business trip. And more convenient. And you don't get jet lag, either!"



Paco Rodriguez

"I use a webcam to keep in touch with my parents. They think it's better than the phone because they can see me. I guess it's more interesting."

1. Alma says e-mail is slower than anything else.
2. Tim thinks real cards are nicer than e-cards.
3. Mayumi thinks text messages are less fun than phone calls.
4. Kayla says video conferences are more expensive than business trips.
5. Paco's parents think webcam calls are better than phone calls.

1. False. Alma says e-mail is quicker than anything else.

2. True.

3. False. Mayumi thinks text messages are more fun than phone calls.

4. False. Ken says video conferences are less expensive than business trips.

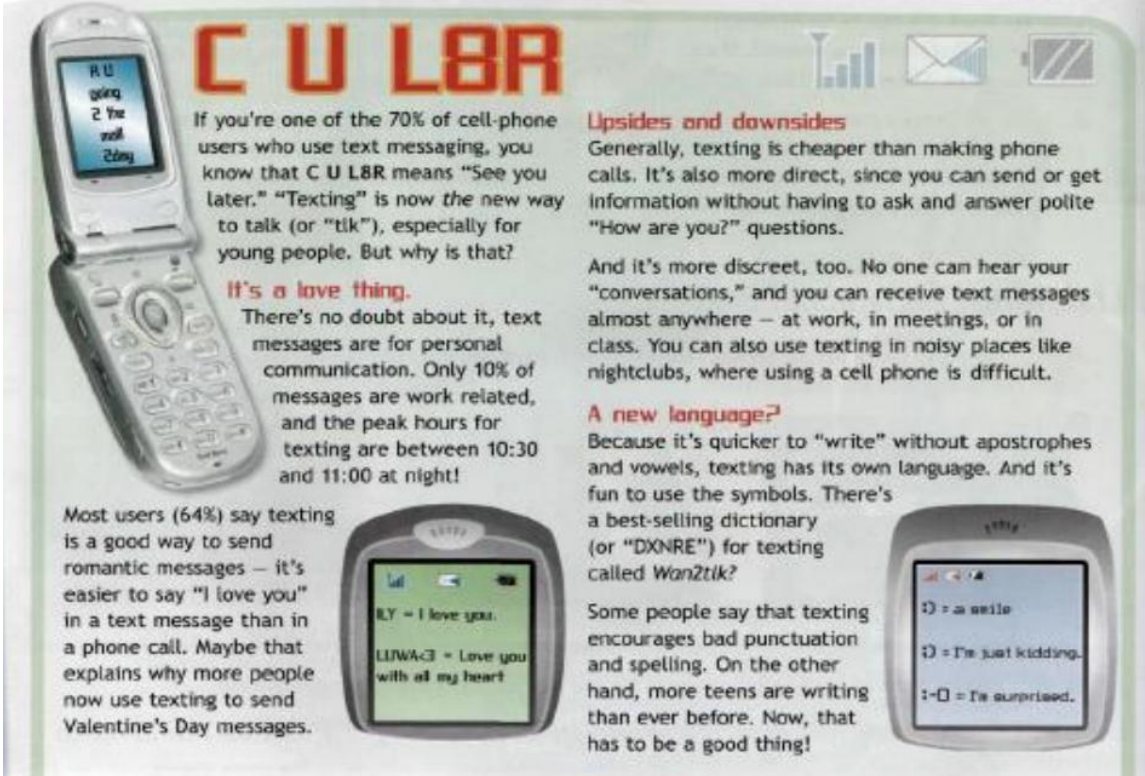
5. True.

E-communication

1 Reading

A Can you match these text messages with their meanings? Compare with a partner.

2moro	GrB	Thx	XLNT	ILY	RUOK
Excellent!	I love you.	Tomorrow.	Are you OK?	Thanks.	Great!

B Read the article. Find four reasons why text messaging can be useful.


C U L8R

If you're one of the 70% of cell-phone users who use text messaging, you know that C U L8R means "See you later." "Texting" is now the new way to talk (or "tik"), especially for young people. But why is that?

It's a love thing.
There's no doubt about it, text messages are for personal communication. Only 10% of messages are work related, and the peak hours for texting are between 10:30 and 11:00 at night!

Most users (64%) say texting is a good way to send romantic messages — it's easier to say "I love you" in a text message than in a phone call. Maybe that explains why more people now use texting to send Valentine's Day messages.

Upsides and downsides
Generally, texting is cheaper than making phone calls. It's also more direct, since you can send or get information without having to ask and answer polite "How are you?" questions.

And it's more discreet, too. No one can hear your "conversations," and you can receive text messages almost anywhere — at work, in meetings, or in class. You can also use texting in noisy places like nightclubs, where using a cell phone is difficult.

A new language?
Because it's quicker to "write" without apostrophes and vowels, texting has its own language. And it's fun to use the symbols. There's a best-selling dictionary (or "DXNRE") for texting called *Wan2tik*.

Some people say that texting encourages bad punctuation and spelling. On the other hand, more teens are writing than ever before. Now, that has to be a good thing!

Small phone screens showing text messages:
 - Screen 1: ILY = I love you. LITWA<3 = Love you with all my heart
 - Screen 2: :) = a smile, :) = I'm just kidding, :-O = I'm surprised.

C Read the article again, and answer the questions. Then compare with a partner.

1. What do people use texting for?
2. Why does texting need its own language? How is it different from "real English"?
3. What are some of the advantages of text messaging?
4. Why do some people think text messaging is bad?

1. Most people use texting for personal communication. A few people use it for work.

2. It needs its own language because it's quicker to "write" without apostrophes and vowels. It does not use correct spelling and complete words.

3. See possible answers in Part B.

4. Some people think it encourages bad punctuation and spelling.