

Lecture (25)

Unit 9

Things happen

In Unit 9, you learn how to . . .

- use the past continuous for events in progress in the past.
- use *myself, yourself, himself, etc.*
- talk about accidents and things that went wrong.
- react to other people's stories.
- use the expression *I bet . . .*






Lesson A

When things go wrong . . .

Are you having a bad week?



Sean Davis

“ Actually, yes. I was going to work on the train Monday morning, and I was talking to this woman. I guess I wasn't paying attention, and I missed my stop. I was half an hour late for a meeting with my new boss. ”



Julia Chen

“ Oh, definitely! A friend of mine accidentally deleted all my music files yesterday when she was using my computer. I tried for hours to find them, but nothing worked. I lost everything! ”

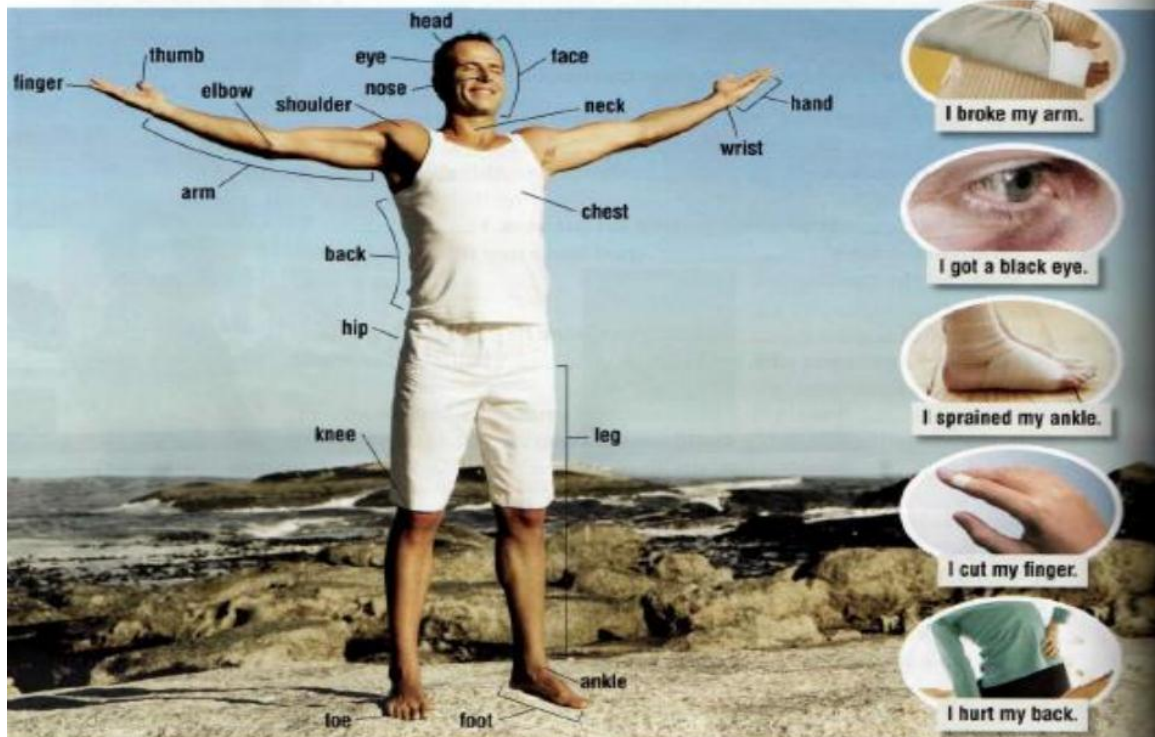
Roberto Moreno

“ Yeah, kind of. A couple of days ago, a friend and I were trying to look cool in front of some girls at the mall. We weren't looking, and we walked right into a glass door. I was so embarrassed. ”



1 Building vocabulary

A Listen and say the words and sentences. How many of these words and expressions do you already know?

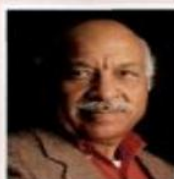


1 Reading

A Brainstorm! Make a list of all the good things that happened to you recently. Tell the class.

I found \$20. An old friend called me. I passed my driver's test.

B Read the newspaper column. What good things happened to these people?



Around Town by Nelson Hunter

Acts of Kindness

A few weeks ago, I was walking to my car in the parking lot, when someone came up to me and said he enjoyed reading my weekly column. "But," he said, "you

always write about everyone's bad experiences. Why don't you ask people to talk about their good experiences, too?"

So I asked readers to write in and tell me about all the good things that happened to them recently. I got hundreds of replies. Here are three of them:

I was coming home from a party really late at night, and I missed the last train home. I didn't have enough money for a cab, and I didn't want to walk home in the dark. I was standing outside the train station, and I guess I looked worried because a woman came up and asked me if I needed any help. She offered to share a cab with me and to pay for it! She said she didn't like being by herself at night, either. I was so grateful.

— Abby Walters

When I was shopping at the mall last week, I lost my wallet with all my money and credit cards in it. I spent a long time looking for it with no luck. I was really upset because it had my spare house key and my address in it, too. Anyway, later that day after I got home, my doorbell rang. It was a young man, and he had my wallet. Apparently, he saw it on the ground when he was walking into the mall. He drove all the way to my house to give it to me! I couldn't believe it! I was so lucky!

— Andrea Keane

After class each week, I often go to the local donut shop and get some coffee before I go home. When I was leaving the store last week, the owner gave me a bag of donuts from the day before to take home for free. She said I was a good customer, and she didn't want to throw them out. When I got home, I shared them with my roommates!

— John Jones


So, thank you for all the letters. For next week, I want to hear about any funny stories you have. What funny things happened to you recently?

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 Sato

"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.

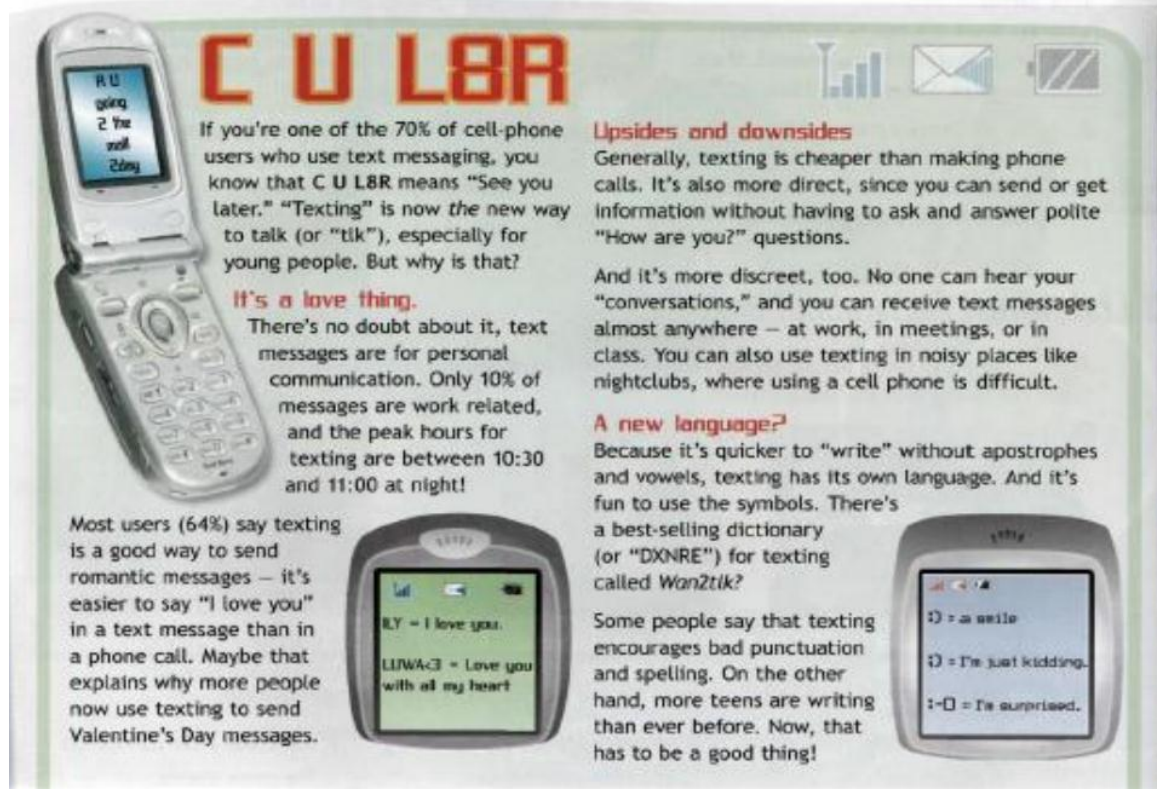
E-communication

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: R U going 2 the mall 2day
- Screen 2: LUL - I love you. LULWA-C3 = Love you with all my heart
- Screen 3: :) = a smile ;D = I'm just kidding. !-[] = 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.