

Task1 Read the article quickly and underline all the means of communication mentioned.

1 Before mobile phones took off in the mid-1990s, no one had predicted that they'd create a new means of communication: the text message. In fact, not long before e-mail and text messages came along, some people had said that writing was dying and that in the future, speech would be king. 'We won't write letters any more', we were told. 'We'll just make phone calls'.

2 But now, writing is back on top. Every day millions – probably billions – of e-mails are sent round the world. Why call someone when you can e-mail them? Millions – possibly billions – of text messages are sent, too. Millions of people are chatting away (but of course they're really typing away) to friends and strangers in Internet chat rooms and on messenger services. And they're all communicating using written form of language.

3 And if they're sending text messages chatting in English, the chances are they're using a new form of the language. One that no-one had thought of even twenty-five years ago. It's got new rules for spelling, and grammar. It uses symbols and punctuation in ways that they've never been used before and, in many ways, it's much closer to speech than traditional writing. Whether you love it or hate it, one thing is clear, It's here to stay so you might as well get used to it!

Task2 Work individually. Change cyber-English into regular English.

b		l8r	
c		sth	
r		2nite	
u		a/noon	
2		luv	
4		w/out	
gonna		@	
goin		l8r	
wanna		lol	
ur		rotfl	
cu		btw	

Task3 Read the text again. Choose the correct answer.

- 1 What did people fail to predict?**
 - a) the mobile phone
 - b) text messages
 - c) e-mail
 - d) the end of writing

- 2 What does the writer emphasise in paragraph 2?**
 - a) that writing helps us meet new people
 - b) that writing is now as popular as speaking
 - c) that we waste a lot of time writing
 - d) that we do a lot of writing these days

- 3 What does the writer say about the new form of written English?**
 - a) It is a very recent development.
 - b) Most people don't like using it.
 - c) It was introduced twenty-five years ago.
 - d) It is actually a type of speaking.