

我们为什么选择发信息而不是说话？ Why do we choose to text instead of talk?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Georgina.

我是乔治娜。

Can I ask you something, Georgina?

我能问你点事情吗，乔治娜？

Mm-mm-hmm.

嗯嗯嗯。

Georgina? I said, I want to ask you something...are you listening to me? !

乔治娜？我刚刚说，我想问你点事情.....你在听我说话吗？！

Mm-hmm, just a second, Neil, I'm texting a friend.

嗯嗯，等等，内尔，我正在给一个朋友发信息。

Ah, has this ever happened to you?

啊，你遇见过这种情况吗？

Someone too busy texting to talk.

有人太忙于发信息以至于无法说话了。

With the huge rise of mobile phones in recent decades, communicating by text has become more and more popular and scenes like this have become increasingly common.

随着移动手机在近几十年的强势崛起，通过信息交流已经变得越来越受欢迎，而且像这样的场景也变得越来越常见。

...and send!

.....然后发送！

There, all done!

好了，完成！

Now, what were you saying, Neil?

你刚刚在说什么，内尔？

In this programme, we'll be investigating why people often choose to text, instead of talk to the people in their lives.

在本期节目中，我们要调查人们在他们的生活中为什么经常选择发信息而不是跟人聊天。

We'll be asking whether this popular form of communication is changing how we interact with each other.

我们会探寻这一受欢迎的交流形式是否正在改变我们彼此交流的方式。

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And, of course, we'll be learning some related vocabulary as well.

当然，我们还会学习一些相关词汇。

Now, Neil, what did you want to ask me?

那么，内尔，你想要问我什么？

My quiz question, Georgina, which is this.

乔治娜，我的问题如下。

Young people are often the biggest users of mobile phones, but in a 2016 study, what percentage of British teenagers said they would prefer to send a text rather than speak to someone, even if they were in the same room?

年轻人通常是移动手机的最大用户，但是在 2016 年的研究里，有百分之多少的英国青少年说他们更喜欢发信息而不是跟别人说话，即使他们同处一室？

Is it a) 9 percent, b) 49 percent, or, c) 99 percent?

是 A. 9%，B.49%，还是 C.99%？

That sounds pretty shocking!

这听起来相当令人震惊！

I can't believe 99 percent of teenagers said that, so I'll guess b) 49 percent.

我不敢相信有99%的青少年那么说，所以我要猜 B. 49%。

OK, Georgina. We'll find out later if that's right.

好的，乔治娜。我们稍后会揭晓答案。

In one way, the popularity of texting, sometimes called 'talking with thumbs', is understandable—people like to be in control of what they say.

在某种程度上，发信息的流行，有时候也被称为“用拇指聊天”，是可以理解的——人们喜欢控制他们说话的内容。

But this low-risk way of hiding behind a screen may come at a cost, as neuroscientist, Professor Sophie Scott, explained to Sandra Kanthal, for BBC World Service programme, The Why Factor.

但是正如神经科学家苏菲·斯科特教授在 BBC 的世界服务节目《The Why Factor》中对桑德拉·康泰尔解释的那样，这种躲在屏幕后面的低风险方式可能会让人付出代价。

When we 'talk with our thumbs' by text or email or instant message, we're often prioritising speed over clarity and depth.

当我们通过短信或电子邮件或即时通讯软件“用拇指聊天”的时候，我们常常把速度放在清晰和深度之前。

But when we can't hear the way someone is speaking, it's all too easy to misunderstand their intention.

但是当我们无法听到某个人说话的方式时，很容易就会误解他们的意图。

So if I say a phrase like, 'Oh, shut up!' -has a different meaning than, 'Oh, shut up!' There's an emotional thing there but also a strong kind of intonation: one's sort of funny, one's just aggressive.

所以我像这样说：“哦，闭嘴！”跟这样说“哦，闭嘴！”是不一样的。这其中包含情绪，而且有很明显的语调：其中一个有点好玩，而另一个是具有攻击性的。

Written down it's just aggressive- 'Shut up!' -and you can't soften that.

写下来就只能感觉到攻击性——“闭嘴”——而且无法缓和语气。

And we always speak with melody and intonation to our voice and we'll change our meaning depending on that.

我们说话的时候总是带着旋律和音调，而且我们会以此来改变我们的意思。

You take that channel of information out of communication you lose another way that sense is being conveyed.

如果把沟通中的这一层信息去除，你就失去了另一种传达意思的方式。

When reading a text instead of listening to someone speak, we miss out on the speaker's intonation-that's the way the voice rises and falls when speaking.

在阅读信息而不是听某人说话的过程中，我们听不到说话者的语调——这是指说话时声音的起伏。

Intonation, how a word is said, often changes the meaning of words and phrases-small groups of words people use to say something particular.

语调，一个词的发音方式，常常会改变单词和短语——人们用来表达特定事物的一小组词——的意思。

Reading a phrase like, 'Oh, shut up!' in a text, instead of hearing it spoken aloud, makes it easy to misunderstand the speaker's intention-their aim, or plan of what they want to do.

在信息中阅读像“哦，闭嘴！”这样的短语，而不是听它被说出来会容易让人误解说话人的意图——他们想要做的事情的目标或计划。

And it's not just the speaker's intention that we miss.

而且我们错失的不仅仅是说话者的意图。

A whole range of extra information is conveyed through speech, from the speaker's age and gender to the region they're from.

话语可以传达很多额外的信息，从说话者的年龄、性别到他们来自的地区。

Poet, Gary Turk, believes that we lose something uniquely human when we stop talking.

诗人盖瑞·特克认为当我们停止说话时我们会失去人类所特有的东西。

And there are practical problems involved with texting too, as he explains to BBC World Service's, The Why Factor.

而且正如他向 BBC 世界服务节目《The Why Factor》解释的那样，发信息也存在一些实际的问题。

If you speak to someone in person and they don't respond right away, that would be rude.

如果你亲自跟某人说话，而他们没有立刻回复，这样会显得很无礼。

But you might be speaking to someone in person and someone texts you...and it would be ruder for you then to stop that conversation and speak to the person over text...yet the person on the other side of the text is getting annoyed -you haven't responded right way-it's like we're constantly now creating these situations using our phones that allow us to like tread on mines-no matter what you do, we're going to disappoint people because we're trying to communicate in so many different ways.

但是你可能正在亲自跟某个人说话，而有人给你发信息.....如果你停止对话跟对方发信息的话会更无礼.....然而给你发信息的那个人正在生气——你没有立刻回复——这就好像我们一直在用手机造成这样的让我们踩雷的情景——不管你做什么，我们都会让人们失望，因为我们正努力以如此多的方式交流。

Do you prioritise the person on the phone?

你会把正在跟你通话的人排在首位吗？

Would you prioritise the person you're speaking to?

你会把你正与之说话的人放在首位吗？

Who do you disappoint first?

你会先让谁失望？

You're gonna disappoint somebody.

你一定会让某个人失望的。

So what should you do if a friend texts you when you're already speaking to someone else in person-physically present, face to face?

所以如果当你的朋友给你发信息，而你已经在亲自——身在现场，面对面——跟另一个人讲话了，你该怎么办？

You can't communicate with both people at the same time, so whatever you do, someone will get annoyed-become angry and upset.

你无法同时跟两个人交流，所以不管你做什么，都会有人愤怒——变得生气，不高兴。

Gary thinks that despite its convenience, texting creates situations where we have to tread on mines, another way of saying that something is a minefield, meaning a situation full of hidden problems and dangers, where people need to take care.

盖瑞认为尽管发信息很方便，但也造成了我们不得不踩雷的局面，这是另一种表达某个事情是雷区的方式，即充满了潜在问题和危险的情景，在这种情况下，人们应该小心。

Yes, it's easy to get annoyed when someone ignores you to text their friend... Oh, you're not still upset about that, are you, Neil?

是的，如果有人因为给他们的朋友发信息而忽视了你，这样确实很容易生气。哦，你不会还在生气吧，是吗，内尔？

Ha, it's like those teenagers in my quiz question!

哈，这就像我问题里的那些青少年一样。

Remember I asked you how many teenagers said they'd prefer to text someone, even if they were in the same room.

还记得吗，我问你有多少青少年说他们更喜欢跟人发信息，即使他们身处一室。

I guessed it was b) 49 percent.

我猜的是 B. 49%。

Which was...the correct answer!

回答正确！

I'm glad you were listening, Georgina, and not texting!

我很高兴你在听，乔治娜，而不是在发信息！

Ha ha! In this programme we've been discussing ways in which texting differs from talking with someone in person, or face to face.

哈哈！我们在本期节目中一直在讨论发信息和跟人亲自，或者说面对面对话的区别。

Sending texts instead of having a conversation means we don't hear the speaker's intonation-the musical way their voice rises and falls.

发信息而不是进行对话意味着我们听不到说话人的语调——他们声音的起伏。

A phrase, or small group of words, like 'Oh, shut up!', means different things when said in different ways.

像“哦，闭嘴！”这样的短语，或者说一小组词在我们用不同方式说的情况下会有不同的意思。

Without intonation we can easily misunderstand a text writer's intention-their idea or plan of what they are going to do.

在没有语调的情况下我们很容易误解发信人的意图——他们要做的事情的想法或计划。

Which in turn means they can get annoyed, or become irritated, if you don't understand what they mean, or don't respond right away.

这也意味着他们可能会愤怒，或变得生气，如果你不理解他们的话，或没有立刻回复。

All of which can create an absolute minefield-a situation with many hidden problems, where you need to speak and act carefully.

这些都会制造出一个绝对雷区——有很多潜在问题的情景，在这种情况下你需要谨言慎行。

And that's all we have time for in this programme, but remember you can find more useful vocabulary, trending topics and help with your language learning here at BBC Learning English.

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Bye for now!

再见。

Bye!

再见。
