

Overview

Watch the video podcast. Do you agree with any of the opinions you hear?

- 1 Watch the video podcast from 0:11-0:29 and complete Pasha's introduction.**

Hi. I have too ¹ many friends to stay in touch ² phone, so I use a lot of ³ networking sites instead. Today I'm finding ⁴ how people feel about ⁵ communication. How do you like to stay in touch ⁶ your friends?



Glossary: *stay in touch* = regularly speak with or write to

- 2 How do you like to stay in touch with your friends? Watch the video podcast from 0:26-1:16 and tick (✓) the answers in the box each time you hear them.**

email(s) _____	mobile phone/phone/phone calls _____
face-to-face contact _____	letters _____
have dinner _____	postcards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text messages _____

Glossary: *face-to-face* = physically be with a person/people

- 3 Has modern communication helped us to communicate better? Look at the people in the pictures and read the statements below. Then watch the video podcast from 1:17-2:37 again and write true (T) or (F) next to each statement.**



Sarah



Samuel



Richard



Geraldine



Josephine



Jasmin

- 1 Sarah thinks modern technology helps us to be more honest and open. F
- 2 Samuel says that we can contact people instantaneously with mobile phones.
- 3 Richard is a technophobe but likes using social networking sites.
- 4 Geraldine thinks that, despite modern technology, it's still necessary to speak to people directly.
- 5 Josephine says that although we can communicate remotely very successfully, a lot of people still feel isolated.
- 6 Jasmin thinks that communication is worse because people don't speak to each other face-to-face so much.

Glossary: *instantaneously*= immediately/quickly and easily; *technophobe* = a person who doesn't like machines/technology; *communicate remotely* = via computers/text messages etc; *isolated* = far away from other people/alone

4 What kinds of problems can modern communication cause? Look at the people and read their answers. Then watch the video podcast from 2:38-3:27 and match the six answers to the correct people.



A



B



C



D

Fay

Jasmin

Richard

Sarah

- 1 It's possible to make serious spelling mistakes in emails if you don't pay close attention.
- 2 A lot of problems can be caused by modern communication. A
- 3 It can be hard for people to express themselves clearly so the person who receives the email might misunderstand the message.
- 4 People often send emails to the wrong people.
- 5 She typed her name wrongly and signed an important email with the word Satan.
- 6 She has problems organising her emails and often sends the wrong work to her teachers.

Glossary: *misunderstand* = not understand correctly; *Satan* = the Devil

The way we speak

5 The people in the pictures use some common words and phrases when they answer Pasha's questions. Watch the video podcast from 0:26-2:37 and complete what they say.



A

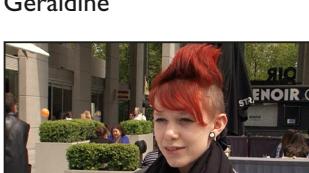
We do a kind of 'round robin', you know, we each ¹take turns to cook for each other. It's ² ____ us more options. I'm a bit of a technophobe though. I don't use social networking sites, I haven't got on the whole, *kind of*, Twitter bandwagon: so I know that that's there for me to use if I wanted to, but I tend ³ ____ to bother.



B

Well, I ⁴ ____ to use an awful lot of postcards and letters, but of course that's now email.

In theory, it ⁵ ____ be better, but in practice, sometimes you just have to speak to somebody on the phone.



C

My phone. My phone is my lifeline. Use it ⁶ ____ everything. I hate computers. No. I think it's probably made it a lot ⁷ ____ as people don't talk face-to-face as much and they just rely on 'text speak' and things, and points don't get *put across* as well if you're ⁸ ____ speaking face-to-face.

Jasmin

Glossary: *options* = choices; *tend not to* – usually don't; *bother* = make the effort; *rely on* = depend on; 'text-speak' = the abbreviated language used in text messages;

Vocabulary**6 Complete the sentences using the words and phrases in *italics* from Ex. 6.**

- 1 In theory, he's the right man for the job, but _____, he's no good at managing people.
- 2 Charity organisations are a _____ for millions of people all over the world.
- 3 I don't like this music very much. It's very loud, and well, _____ boring.
- 4 Fred's got on the whole recycling _____ recently. He won't let me throw even a yoghurt carton away!
- 5 An _____ people have given up smoking in the last few years.
- 6 Experts are saying that young people won't be able to _____ their ideas very well in the future because of they use text-speak too much.
- 7 A tagine is _____ Moroccan stew, made with meat and vegetables.

Glossary: *a kind of* = a type of; *kind of* = used when you pause to think of how to describe something but can't do it exactly

Personalisation**7 Write your answers to the questions.**

- 1 How do you keep in touch with friends?

- 2 Has modern communication helped us to communicate better?

- 3 Have you had similar problems with modern communications as the speakers? What's the worst problem you've had?

**BBC LINK**

A group of Chilean miners trapped deep underground have been able to speak to their families by telephone.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-11128157>

