FINE, I ADMIT IT – I AM A “DRY TEXTER”

I’ve recently become aware of the phenomenon of dry texting: the short, single-word responses (Yes, No, OK, Lol) to messages that are viewed as inadequate, hostile or hurtful.

Our family chat is arid. Most messages are “k” or “OK.” Supposedly interesting messages sent by those of us who are keen to maintain a feeling of connection go uncommented on; sometimes even unopened. I can be a dry texter myself: short responses to friends who send three-paragraph messages. It’s partly a lack of mental capacity for more writing outside the day job. If I could bring myself to get into emojis – I can’t – I would absolutely be the “single thumbs-up” kind of texter.

The other reason I dry text is I can’t write anything without horribly getting my typing wrong and being cruelly provoked by autocorrect. When I try to fix it, I end up hitting the M instead of delete, so most of my messages read: “We we’re mmmmmmmm.”

I quite like dry texting anyway: there’s an economical poetry to it. My last four messages from my stepfather are “Yes,” “OK,” “Good” and “OK.” The conversation thread between me and my husband is mainly “Dog?” “Where are you?” “Kfé?” (coffee) and “Yep.” He used a single emoji back in January and I’m still getting over it. It makes the more expansive messages extra special, too, such as when my husband spontaneously says he’s missing me. Those in textual relationships with more extensive typing style will never know that thrill.

Adapted from an article by Emma Beddington, The Guardian, 23-2-2023

1. **Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text:**

a. What is “dry texting”?

b. Why does the author use that kind of text?

2. **Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage:**

a. The author opens all the messages that she receives on her mobile.

b. The author’s typing ability adds to her tendency to dry texting.

c. The author always prefers her husband to dry text her.

**3. Find a synonym for each of the four words:**

a. persuade  
b. considerable

c. upsetting  
d. keep

4. PHONETICS:

1. Which word has a different sound? **H**urtful, **h**ostile, **h**itting, **h**eir, **h**usband
2. Which word has a different sound? O**th**er, **th**umbs, **th**read, **th**rill
3. Which word has a different sound? R**ea**son, k**ee**n, thr**ea**d, del**e**te, r**e**cently,
4. Which word has a different sound? View**ed**, provok**ed**, us**ed**, unopen**ed**
5. Which word has a different sound? Thumb**s**, relationship**s**, friend**s**, word**s**

5. REPHRASING:

1. Wendy didn’t study for her test. Therefore, she failed.

If ….

1. “Don’t speak so loud, please”, she said to the students.

She….

1. We won’t buy that house because we don’t have enough money.

As ….

1. Steve advised me to tell Paul about it.

Steve suggested …

1. She lost the race in spite of running well.

Although …

1. My new neighbours have got a baby. Her name is Wendy.

My …

1. Although Orson was over seventy, he continued to cycle to work every day.

Despite …

1. “Perhaps it would be better to go out in the afternoon”, Sharon’s mother said.

Sharon’s mother recommended ...

1. The fireman managed to rescue the child from the burning house.

The fireman was....

1. The police don’t oblige the suspects to say anything.

The suspects….

**5. Are you a regular dry texter? Give reasons.**

FUKUSHIMA WATER

Japan has decided to begin the release of a million tonnes of water from stricken Fukushima nuclear plant almost 12 years after a magnitude-9 earthquake triggered a huge tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people along Japan’s north-east coast.

The water will be gradually discharged into the Pacific Ocean via a tunnel after being treated and diluted. The plan’s operator, Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco), has said its water treatment technology can remove all radioactive materials from water except tritium, which it says is harmless in small amounts. The International Atomic Energy Agency has also pointed out that nuclear plants around the world use a similar process to dispose of wastewater containing low-level concentrations of tritium and other radionuclides.

South Korea and China have voiced concern about the discharge, while the Pacific Islands Forum has said recently that Japan “should hold off on any such release until we are certain about the implications of this proposal on the environment and on human health, especially recognising that the majority of our Pacific peoples are coastal peoples, and that the ocean continues to be an integral part of their subsistence living.”

The South Korean government, which has yet to lift its ban on Fukushima seafood, has said that releasing the water would pose a “grave threat” to marine life. Fishing unions in the area oppose the release, warning it would cause alarm among consumers and derail more than a decade of efforts to reassure the public that Fukushima seafood is safe to eat.

Adapted from an article by Justin McCurry, The Guardian, 13-1-2023

**1. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.**

a. How will the release be done?

b. Why are fishing unions against the release?

2. **Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage:**

a. Tritium may sometimes be a dangerous radioactive material.

b. Fukushima nuclear plant is the only one that processes wastewater containing tritium.

c. Most Pacific peoples live on what they get from the ocean.

**3. Find a synonym for each of the four words below:**

a. extract  
b. prohibition

c. postpone

d. worry

**4. PHONETICS:**

1. Which word has a different sound? O**c**eans, interna**t**ional, a**g**ency, rea**ss**ure
2. Which word has a different sound? Thr**ea**t, r**ea**ssure, tr**ea**tment, rel**ea**se
3. Which word has a different sound? Der**ai**l, s**ai**d, tr**ai**n, v**ai**n
4. Which word has a different sound? H**a**rmless, p**a**rt, b**a**n, disch**a**rge
5. Which word has a different sound? Trigger**ed**, discharg**ed**, kill**ed**, decid**ed**

**5. REPHRASING:**

a) She hasn’t enjoyed herself so much for years.

It is years....

b) I am going to the theatre tomorrow, and I’m really looking forward to it.

I’m really looking...

c) “How much money have you put into your account?” they asked.

They asked...

d) Mary said to us “Don’t be late.”

She told …

e) Despite the fact that it was very hot, she was wearing her winter clothes.

Although...

f) The teacher said to me “Wait for me outside”.

The teacher...

g) It takes me two hours to get there.

How…

h) You must not smoke in here.

Smoking ....

i) Where are my keys?

I wonder …..

j)Will you post this letter for me, please?

Do you mind ...

4. **Do you think green energy is the energy source for the future? Give reasons.**