

Let's Talk!

1. Do you do these things? **Highlight** the ✓ for 'Yes' and the ✗ for 'No'.

Send birthday cards to friends	✓	✗
Write a blog	✓	✗
Send postcards from abroad	✓	✗
Write letters by hand	✓	✗
Make plans with friends by email	✓	✗
Cancel plans by text or instant message	✓	✗
Telephone friends to invite them somewhere	✓	✗

2. Look at the sentences below. In pairs, guess which words might be missing.

- Gin: 'Facebook means I don't _____ anything.'
- Julie: 'I'd prefer a phone call to a _____.'
- Marc: 'Writing a blog is a lot easier than sending _____.'
- Claudio: 'I just send an _____.'

The Fast and the Furious

Communication is quick and easy with digital technology. But is it making us lazy? Should some things be more personal?



Gin

I'm really into Facebook. It's especially useful for birthdays, that kind of thing. When I check my Facebook page, it tells me whose birthday it is. So I never forget and I can just write a message on their wall. And when people have big news – maybe a new baby or something – you can write a comment straight away.



Julie

I absolutely hate it when friends cancel by text message. It's so rude. My friend Sara and I planned to go to the cinema tonight. But I'm pretty sure she'll cancel – she generally does. I'm waiting for her text message now.



Marc

I'm studying in New York, away from my family. And while I'm here I'm writing a blog so my friends and family at home know my news. I particularly like putting all my photos on there because people leave comments. Most of my friends use Facebook, but I prefer writing a blog. It's fairly easy to do and it's quicker than writing 50 separate emails.



Claudio

I normally communicate with people by instant message because they're free. I've even finished relationships with girlfriends by IM. In fact, I mainly do that. I know it's not the best thing to do – but it's better than a lot of shouting and crying. Some of my friends don't even send a message. They just stop communication and wait for her to realise they're not interested.

3. Read the article again. Answer the questions below.

- a. Why does Julie think her friend will cancel?
- b. What does Facebook help Gin to remember?
- c. Why is Marc writing a blog?
- d. Why does Claudio prefer sending instant messages?

4. In pairs, talk about how often you use different types of communication. How often do you. . . (Give reasons for your answers.)

- a. ...send a message to your boss or teacher to say you are sick?
- b. ...share important news on Facebook?
- c. ...read English-language websites?
- d. ...send an e-card instead of a real card?
- e. ...buy presents for people online?
- f. ...start conversations with new people?
- g. ...write emails in English?
- h. ...video call friends and relatives?
- i. ...send videos by instant message?