

Texting and Text Speak



Level:

Beginner—Intermediate, can be adapted for higher levels



Objectives:

This fluency exercise will help the student to engage in expressing thoughts spontaneously and coherently with language and print.



Timing

5-15 minutes, can be expanded further into a variety of approaches.



Prep/

Materials:

- Review and familiarize yourself with text terms and text speak
- Recommended website provides text terms for: Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and a few others
- <https://www.netlingo.com/word/international-online-jargon.php>
- Prepare a short summary of longer, more formal pieces of literature
- Prepare a list of messages

Students who regularly ‘text speak’ have better word recognition, vocabulary and phonological awareness. Consider that for students to use abbreviations, symbols or slang, they need to have an understanding about how language and syntax work.



Breakdown:

1. Discuss formal and informal language by comparing syntax, language, grammar and usage of text messages and instant message (IM) with formal, written language (some emails, books, etc.)
2. Have your student use ‘text speak’ to write a short summary of a longer, more formal piece of literature (for example—the famous dialogue between Romeo and Juliet)
3. Discuss whether meanings are different? Do relationships suffer from the texting medium? Is the message still clear?
4. Encourage your student to practice writing through instant messaging or texting during this next week with you.