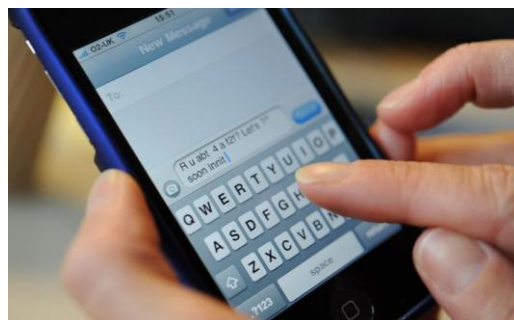


The death of text messaging 微信取代短信

Vocabulary: Sending messages 词汇: 发短信

If you hear the sound of a **handset** beeping in a bag or pocket, you could be forgiven for thinking that someone has received a **text message**. But nowadays there are so many different ways of **messaging** someone that it could spell the death of the traditional text as we know it.



Could text messaging be a thing of the past?

Text messaging, or **texting**, is the art of sending a short, electronic message between two mobile phones or **tablets**. Text **bundles** formed an integral part of mobile phone **monthly plans**, with users paying a certain amount to send messages via **SMS** – short message service. But in the last few years, messaging in this manner has been on the decline.

The rise of **smartphones** and tablets has seen an increase in the use of **instant messaging apps**, which offer a cheap alternative to conventional texts. Using **wireless** internet connections or **mobile data networks**, people can send limitless numbers of **IMs** to their friends for very little cost. Unlike traditional mobile texts, the user usually only has to pay **to download** the app once, after which each message they send is free.

Web developers soon **got the message**. Instant messaging apps have become popular all over the world. WhatsApp in America and Europe, WeChat in China and KakaoTalk in South Korea are but a few which have attracted hundreds of millions of people, who use the apps **to chat** to their friends **in real time**. These apps allow people to send **picture messages** for free – something which previously was quite costly. Many of these apps also allow users to access a huge range of colourful **emoticons** and stickers, which are fun ways to help people express their emotions.

Research firm Informa said that almost 19 billion messages were sent per day using chat apps in 2012, compared with 17.6 billion SMS texts. And it expects the chat app market to grow to 50 billion per day by 2014. So does this really mean the end for **communication** by text?

Pamela Clark-Dickson from Informa doesn't think so. She says that there are a considerable number of people who use normal mobile phones, particularly in developing countries, who prefer the SMS messaging tool: "They don't have **mobile data plans**, so there is an awfully big base of mobile phone users who are still going to find that SMS is the best messaging experience for them for a while."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What type of messaging has been on the decline?
2. Which word means 'unlimited'?
3. Is this statement true or false? *Instant messaging is only popular in Asia.*
4. How many instant messages will be sent per day in 2014?
5. Where are SMS text messages still popular?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I don't use laptops nowadays. I prefer _____ instead.

smartphones	tablets	apps	bundles
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2. Instant messaging is very cheap, but you often have to pay to _____ an app.

chat	message	download	access
------	---------	----------	--------

3. Sending picture messages by text can be quite _____.

colourful	popular	free	costly
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4. A _____ number of people still use SMS messaging.

considerable	limitless	developing	increasing
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5. Emoticons can help people to _____ their emotions through messages.

access	expect	express	experience
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What type of messaging has been on the decline? **SMS messaging.**
2. Which word means 'unlimited'? **Limitless.**
3. Is this statement true or false? *Instant messaging is only popular in Asia.* **False. Instant messaging is popular all over the world.**
4. How many instant messages will be sent per day in 2014? **50 million.**
5. Where are SMS text messages still popular? **In developing countries.**

Exercise 练习

1. I don't use laptops nowadays. I prefer **tablets** instead.
2. Instant messaging is very cheap, but you often have to pay to **download** an app.
3. Sending picture messages by text can be quite **costly**.
4. A **considerable** number of people still use SMS messaging.
5. Emoticons can help people to **express** their emotions through messages.

Glossary 词汇表

handset	手机
text message	短信
tablets	平板电脑
bundles	(短信) 套餐
monthly plans	包月套餐
SMS	短信服务
smartphones	智能手机
instant messaging	即时通信
apps	(计算机、手机) 应用程序
wireless	无线的
mobile data technology	手机数据技术
IM	即时消息
to download	下载
got the message	明白, 领会含义
to chat	聊天
in real time	及时、实时
picture messages	图片彩信
emoticons	表情符
communication	交流
mobile data plans	手机流量套餐