

A SILENT REVOLUTION

This interesting piece, published in the Hindustan Times (Patna edition), talks about one of the latest and very popular means of communication known as SMS. This piece has been written by Kunal Varma.

A. Work in small groups and discuss these questions:

1. How do you send your message to your friends and relatives?
2. Have you ever sent an SMS? How did you write your message? How did you send it?

A SILENT REVOLUTION

- 1 **Short Messaging Service or SMS** was conceived as a part of the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) digital standard. It is the ability to send and receive text messages (alphanumeric) at a mobile phone. SMS, like e-mail, is a store and forward service that utilizes gateways to send messages from senders to the recipients.
- 2 However, messages are not sent directly from the sender to the receiver but are routed through a Short Messaging Service Centre, (SMSC) run by the service provider. This ensures that the message is delivered at the destination mobile even if it is switched off or out of the coverage area. The SMSC stores the message and forwards it when the mobile is switched on or enters the network. Normally, messages are delivered instantly but at times there can be delay of some hours due to congestion.
- 3 The beauty of SMS is that messages can be sent and received even while making voice calls. This is possible because a voice call takes over a dedicated radio channel for the duration of the call, while the short messages travel over and above the radio channel using the signalling path.
- 4 The process of sending messages and reading them generally varies from handset to handset. However, confirmation of message delivery is immediate and there is always an alert signal to convey the arrival of a message.
- 5 SMS messages are immediate but not simultaneous like the Instant Messaging Service, which allows virtual real time text conversations with people who are simultaneously logged on to the Internet.



- 6 Access to SMS is generally free and a beginner has only to register the network service centre into his/her handset. The message service centre number for BSNL is + 919434099997.
- 7 The launch of SMS opened a new vista in the field of text communication, providing a new easy way to the people to communicate. The limitation of characters (160 for the GSM networks at present) or the tedious process of typing from the small handset keypads failed to deter the spirit of the enthusiasts. The SMS revolution that took roots in Europe slowly spread to other parts of the globe, especially Asia. From the first short message, believed to have been sent in December 1992 from a PC to a mobile phone on the Vodafone GSM network in the UK, SMS has come a long way today.
- 8 Judging by its success, at present not many would believe that SMS had a very silent beginning. Not even the cellular operators could comprehend the potential of this sleepy technology initially and cared little to advertise it as an attraction for mobile users. However, all that is history now. Today every market player, from cellular operators to mobile handset manufactures, is keen to capture its share of the pie. Nokia recently launched the first Hindi compatible handsets 3350, to give its users the option of sending messages in Hindi.
- 9 Buoyed by the success of SMS, the industry is now preparing for the more advanced MMS or multi-media messaging service, which would enable pictures, sounds and longer formatted texts to be sent to other MMS-enabled terminals or e-mail addresses via the mobile.

**B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

1. What does SMS stand for?
2. How was it conceived?
3. What ability does it have?
4. How are messages sent and routed?
5. What ensures that the message is delivered at the destination mobile even if it is switched off or out of the coverage area?
6. What does SMSC stand for?
7. What is its function?
8. On what account may the delivery of a message be delayed?
9. What is the beauty of SMS?
10. What is a voice call?
11. How does it differ from SMS?



GLOSSARY AND NOTES

conceived : imagined, thought

alphanumeric (adj): containing both letters and numbers

recipient (n) : person who receives something

simultaneous (adj): occurring or operating at the same time

access (n): way of approach or entry, admittance

vista (n): long narrow view as between rows of trees, mental view of a long series of even

tedious (adj): tiresomely long, wearisome

deter (v): discourage or prevent esp from fear

compatible (adj) able to coexist, well suited

buoyed (v): encouraged

C.1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How has SMS brought about a silent revolution?
2. How do you think that SMS has now become the most preferred option for communication?
3. What is the attractive feature of SMS? How does a voice call differ from SMS?
4. "The launch of SMS has opened a new vista in the field of text communication." Explain.

C. 2. GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the following in groups or pairs:

1. With the introduction of SMS and E-mail writing a message on paper (letter writing) and sending it to others has come down. Do you agree?
2. The current phase of rapidly changing world conditions is a good sign or a bad sign for humanity.

C. 3. COMPOSITION

1. Write a paragraph in about 80 words on each of the following:
 - (a) The mobile as a companion
2. Learn how to write a memo/memorandum:

MEMO / MEMORANDUM

A memo is a short official note that is written from one person to another within the same company or organization. Requiring an employee to explain his conduct, intimation regarding grant of permission to do certain things requested for epc. are usually given in the form of a memorandum. It is

addressed to the individual concerned and sent through the departmental / sectional head so that the latter is aware of the matter contained in the memo. The actual format of a memorandum varies from company to company or from an organisation to author.

Example-1:

Ref. Name of the office / company

Dated

To

Memorandum No.

Sender's name

Designation

Name of the officer

Ref.

Dated

Memorandum No.

With reference to his letter dated for change of seat on health grounds, Mr. is informed that the matter is under consideration and the decision would be conveyed / communicated to him soon.

 Manager (Administration)

To

Through : Stores Manager

- Ex. 1.** You are a head teacher in a govt. school. Write a memorandum to your subordinate informing him / her that special casual leave has been granted to him / her for enabling him to participate in the All India Teachers' Conference to be held in Delhi.
- Ex.2.** You are Ashok Soni, Manager Soni Sports, Patna. Write a memorandum to Mr S. P. Jain informing him about your inability to give him a job in your firm.

D. WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

Ex. 1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

messege	recieve	concieved	coverege
conjestion	simelteniosly	enthuziasts	begining
addres	seagnaling	arriveal	distination

Ex.2. Find out words from the lesson which have the following meanings:

means of access	information	occurring immediately
tiresomely long	encouraged	able to coexist
handed over	formally introduce (a new product)	
time or place at which anything begins		

Ex.3. Match the words given in Column **A** with their meanings given in Column **B**

A	B
manufacture	occurring immediately
especially	place where a person lives
vary	make possible
share	make articles on an industrial scale
address	portion of a whole
instant	be or become different
enable	particularly
comprehend	carry, communicate
signal	understand
convey	sign conveying information

D.2. WORD FORMATION

purchase - purchasable - purchasibility
 able - ability

You see that suffix **'-ity'** is added to an adjective to make a noun of quality

Add **'-ity'** to the following words to make nouns:

durable, sensible, flexible, inable, possible, accessible, feasible

D.3. Phrases

Read the lesson carefully and find out the sentences in which the following phrases have been used, and then use them in sentences of your own:

even if

at times

go/come a long way.

E. GRAMMAR

Read the following sentences carefully:

However, messages are not sent directly from the sender to the receiver. They are routed through a short Messaging Service Centre (SMSC) by the service providers.

We use 'however' when we add a comment which is surprising or which contrasts with what has just been said.

*This was an easy decision. It is, **however**, a decision that we had to take.*

Sometimes we use 'however' before an adverb or adjective to emphasize that the degree or extent of something cannot change a situation.

***However** fast he ran, he failed to win.*

Ex.1. Use 'however' in both forms at least in five sentences each.

Ex.2. What do these words mean?

Use **'it can'** or **'it can't.....'** to explain the meaning of each of the words given below. Use a dictionary if necessary. One is done for you.

1. washable, **it can be washed**
2. unusable,
3. edible,
4. eligible,
5. readable,
6. invisible
7. inexplicable
8. disposable
9. audible.....
10. inaudible

F. ACTIVITIES

1. Imagine you are in a boarding school. Send an SMS to your brother in Rome asking him not to neglect his studies.
2. Make a list of changes you observe in people's behaviour after the invention of the mobile.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate into Hindi/ your mother tongue

The beauty of SMS is that messages can be sent and received even while making voice calls. This is possible because a voice call takes over a dedicated radio channel for the duration of the call, while the short messages travel over and above the radio channel using the signalling path.

