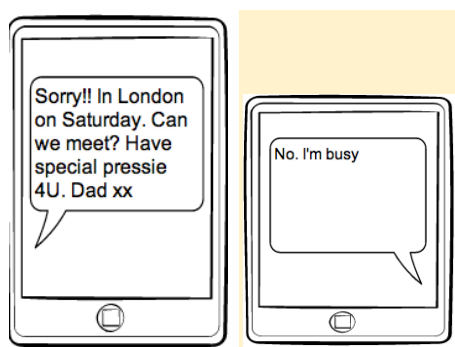
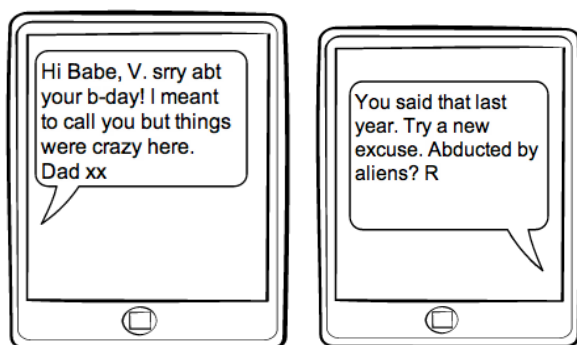


*Rita lives in London with her mother. Her father lives in Scotland.
Three weeks after her birthday Rita receives a text:*



A few moments later the phone rings. Rita lets it go to voicemail but listens to her father's message.

Dad: Hi, Rita, it's me. Is there any chance of meeting Saturday? I'd really like to give you this present. It's something you've always wanted -

Rita: *cutting into the message.* Dad, I told you! I'm busy on Saturday. I've got an essay to do and -

Dad: Couldn't we just have a coffee? It won't take long, I promise!

Taking a deep breath Alright. Call at the house at two. And don't be late

Rita's Dad: Thanks, babe. You won't regret it.

Rita: I probably will. Now, I've got work to do. Bye.

She puts down the phone. Ten minutes later another text arrives



Rita stares at the message, shaking her head

Rita: *Muttering to herself.* He doesn't want to risk meeting Mum. He's up to something! I know he is!

Quick Check

1. What does Rita's father forget?
 2. What does he want Rita to do? When?
 3. What does Fred invite Rita to do? When?
-

Vocabulary

Rita's father uses some special words & phrases found in texts, message boards etc. Rewrite these in standard English:

- a) V. srry abt your b-day! b) will explain F2F c) 4U.
d) @house. e) CU@2 on Sat

Were your right? Check in the [Guide for Texting in English](#).

2. Who uses more texting words? a) Rita b) her father?

Why do you think this is?

Saturday: 14.35

Rita and her father are sitting on a park bench.

Dad: Now, Rita, what have you wanted all your life? Since you were a little girl?

Rita: *Shrugs* I don't know, Dad. A purple teddy? A house made of bubble gum?

Dad: *Gets out his smartphone & navigating to a video clip.* Watch this.

Rita: What is it? Oh no, video of me as a kid? I hate watching those.

Dad: It's the morning of your seventh birthday

Rita: Dad! Stop!

The video plays.

Rita: *looking away* I always asked for one. So what?
Little girl wants dog - hold the front page.

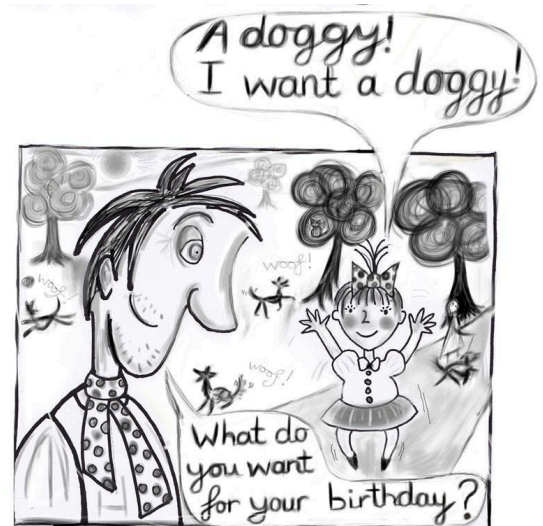
Dad: I wanted to get you one. But your mum was worried about your asthma

Rita: I know, dad! I was there. Now can we get on with this?

Dad: Close your eyes and hold out your hand.

Rita: Look, I'm not five-years-old -

Dad: Please! Do it for me. Just close your eyes and hold out your hand.



Quick Check

4. **Why is Rita angry when her father arrives?**
 5. **Where do they sit?**
 6. **What does her father show her on his phone?**
-