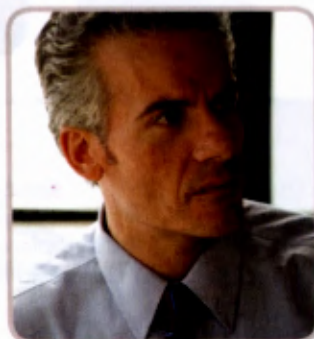


15 Past simple vs past continuous

Listening: What were you doing?

1 Approximately how many calls do you make and receive on your mobile phone each day? And how many text messages do you send and receive? When is it better to call instead of texting? When is it better to text?

2 Keith was travelling on business this morning. His assistant, Toby, was manning the office. Look at a message Keith sent Toby. What does he want?



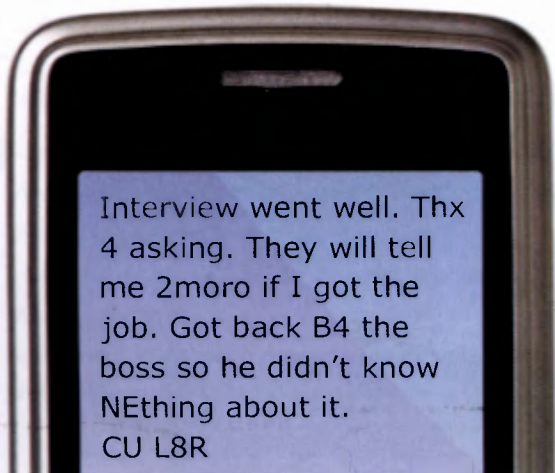
3 **2.22** Listen to their phone conversation and answer these questions.

- 1 What time did Keith first call? What was Tony doing?
- 2 What was Toby doing when Keith called the second time?

4 Listen again and complete the missing words.

- 1 _____ you _____ to reach me?
- 2 Yes, I _____ at about ten.
- 3 What _____ _____ in the basement?
- 4 I _____ _____ some old files.
- 5 It wasn't a real fire. I think someone _____ _____ and they _____ _____ the alarm by accident.
- 6 Me? No, no, I _____ _____. I _____ _____ when the alarm _____ _____.

5 Later that evening Toby sent this text message to a friend. What was he really doing the first time Keith called?



Word focus: Text messages

6 Look at the abbreviations in Toby's text message. What do they mean? (If you are not sure, try reading them out loud.)

7 Here are some more text abbreviations. What do they mean?

1 Where r u?

2 2nite

3 no l

4 n e l

5 oic

6 gr8

8 Read someone's thoughts about abbreviations in text messages. Underline the words that are spelt differently from standard English. How would you write them in full? Turn to File 12, page 141 to see a full version of the text.

Txt msg abbreviations

Many ppl luv txt abbreviations cuz they save time n they cn write faster. And some abbreviations are funny n make u LOL.

Bt other ppl h8 m and they r no gd @ txting. So b4 u press send, u hav 2 stop n think. Cn I b cer10 the person I'm writing 2 will understand this msg? It's no gd sending msgs that no1 cn understand.

9 Discuss these questions.

- 1 What are the advantages and disadvantages of abbreviations in emails and text messages?
- 2 Do you always understand the abbreviations that other people use? When shouldn't people use them?