

Tekst 6

Opinion & Analysis

Want to engage in antisocial networking? Tweet!



Adapted from an article by
David Adams

1 **W**HEN TEXTING became all the rage, I imagined that during the fleeting moment this new fad lasted, it might help raise literacy levels among young people. *hw wrng wuz i???* Some fad it turned out to be. Not only has texting become integral to modern life, used by all age groups, it was the beginning of a revolution in public/private communications for which, thanks to the integration of phones, computers and cameras, we have had to redefine the term “social networking”.

2 Having had no desire to join this revolution, and probably being too lazy to keep pace with the lightning speed of innovation anyway, I’ve been all but left behind. 21, I can easily see the point of texting: it is a cheap one-to-one service, whose users are mostly intimates. For the life of me, however, I can’t begin to fathom why anyone would want to constantly peruse the badly spelt banalities of total strangers, which seems to be the main appeal of the likes of Twitter.

3 I have some experience of Twitter. My younger son signed me up a few weeks ago, so that I could follow the summer’s football transfer rumours for myself. I never had any intention of actually sending a tweet, and quickly tired of those who do. There is only so often that a footballer can announce he’s “lookin frwr to tmrrws game”, or a celebrity shares with you the details of his breakfast, “jst had cofee an tost”, before you’re sorely tempted to tweet back “Who cares?” Except, and here’s the rub, if the many thousands of followers that high-profile figures attract are anything to go by, people do care – an awful lot. And not only about the daily minutiae of the lives of the famous, but about the equally mundane everyday doings of us ordinary mortals as well.

4 A far more unappealing aspect of Twitter, and something that won’t surprise anyone who has ever visited an interactive forum or, for that matter, has ever had an opinion piece carried in this newspaper’s online “Have Your Say” section, is how easily people become angry with someone who doesn’t hold similar views to themselves. Not just angry, but downright nasty and abusive. A different opinion is seized upon as a personal insult, and the holder of it treated accordingly. This hair-trigger nastiness does serve to remind that good manners and tolerance are

- often little more than skin-deep social conventions, which are readily dumped if a measure of anonymity can be assured (or imagined). It is a reminder, too, of why newspapers and magazines long ago decided to request the names and contact details of contributors to their letters pages.
- 5 How can people become so animated over idle chit-chat on a computer screen? What's more, have you ever tried to start a conversation with a smartphone user while they're
- 6 using the device? Involving a smartphone user in a conversation is like trying to catch the attention of a photograph. 24, the majority of smartphone users in the UK admit to being so addicted they never turn their phone off, and even use it in the bathroom.
- Social networking? All things considered, perhaps antisocial networking would be more accurate.
- Irish Times, 2011*

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- 1p 20 "Some fad it turned out to be." (paragraph 1)
What does David Adams make clear with this statement?
- A Contrary to his expectations, texting has become widely accepted.
 - B He dislikes the way in which texting has changed people's lives.
 - C He is surprised at the ease with which older people have taken up texting.
 - D Texting has not really improved youngsters' spelling or reading skills.
- 1p 21 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A Instead
 - B Likewise
 - C Moreover
 - D Still

- 1p 22 How does paragraph 3 relate to paragraph 2?
- A It contradicts what is said about Twitter in paragraph 2.
 - B It illustrates what is said about Twitter in paragraph 2.
 - C It puts what is said about Twitter in paragraph 2 in a historical perspective.
 - D It questions what is said about Twitter in paragraph 2.
- 1p 23 What is the main point made in paragraph 4?
- A People become rude and uncivilized if they think they cannot be traced.
 - B People with Twitter accounts will readily correct abusers of this medium.
 - C Smartphones and computers have drastically changed people's social lives.
 - D Twitter has become the medium of choice for spreading and sharing news.
- 1p 24 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 5?
- A As a result
 - B In fact
 - C Nevertheless
- “antisocial networking” (alinea 6)
- 2p 25 Geef van elk van de volgende citaten aan of dit wel of niet een voorbeeld hiervan is.
- 1 “I've been all but left behind” (alinea 2)
 - 2 “I never had any intention of actually sending a tweet, and quickly tired of those who do.” (alinea 3)
 - 3 “A different opinion is seized upon as a personal insult, and the holder of it treated accordingly.” (alinea 4)
 - 4 “Involving a smartphone user in a conversation is like trying to catch the attention of a photograph.” (alinea 5)
- Noteer het nummer van elk citaat, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.