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Deaf anger at Congo ban on texting

15th December, 2011

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

Deaf people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are angry at a week-long ban on texting. The Congolese government issued the ban over a week ago following the country's national elections. Violence erupted after voters believed the election was rigged, so the returned president Joseph Kabila banned SMS messages to restore public order to the streets. This is very bad news for the 1.4 million deaf people in the country who rely on texting as a major means of communication. Deaf people in the capital Kinshasa say the ban represents a threat to their lives as they cannot receive warnings on violence in the city. Four people were killed in Kinshasa following the announcement of the election results.

BBC News reporter Thomas Hubert says Congo's Interior Minister Adolphe Lumanu had been "forced to suspend all...text messaging services to preserve public order" as they were being used to "incite ethnic hatred, insurrection and xenophobia". Mr Hubert reports that: "The measure means deaf Congolese people have been condemned to indefinite isolation." Pastor Kisangala, the deaf community's religious minister in Kinshasa, told Mr Hubert about how serious the situation was: "We're finding it very hard to communicate. All our communications used to go through SMS messages. Our members are scattered across the city, some are ill in hospital, others are dying. Without communication we don't even know about it," he said.

WARM-UPS

1. TEXTING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about texting. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

deaf people / texting / national elections / public order / rely / communication / warnings / ethnic hatred / isolation / communications / serious situations / hospitals

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BAN: How would these bans affect you? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

Ban on...	How much it would affect you	Why?
texting		
driving		
movies and TV		
alcohol		
gaming		
public meetings		

4. SMS: Students A **strongly** believe SMS will be the main way of communicating in ten years; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. COMMUNICATE: What? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- SMS
- e-mail
- chat
- writing letters
- phone call
- face-to-face
- fax
- telegram

6. BAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'ban'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Deaf people in the Congo are angry the government has banned SMS. | T / F |
| b. The ban started after the country's national election. | T / F |
| c. The president banned texting to stop spying in the country. | T / F |
| d. The ban on texting endangers the lives of deaf people. | T / F |
| e. A government spokesperson said the ban would last another week. | T / F |
| f. The Congolese government said they would give SMS to deaf people. | T / F |
| g. A spokesperson for the deaf said he had other ways to communicate. | T / F |
| h. Deaf people are now unaware that people in hospitals are dying. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. angry | a. broke out |
| 2. ban | b. sick |
| 3. erupted | c. depend |
| 4. rely | d. postpone |
| 5. following | e. furious |
| 6. suspend | f. maintain |
| 7. preserve | g. fuel |
| 8. incite | h. prohibition |
| 9. scattered | i. after |
| 10. ill | j. spread |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. angry at a week-long | a. deaf people |
| 2. voters believed the election | b. hatred |
| 3. very bad news for the 1.4 million | c. the election results |
| 4. the ban represents a threat | d. messaging services |
| 5. following the announcement of | e. was rigged |
| 6. forced to suspend all text | f. across the city |
| 7. preserve public | g. ban on texting |
| 8. incite ethnic | h. to communicate |
| 9. We're finding it very hard | i. to their lives |
| 10. Our members are scattered | j. order |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Deaf people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are (1) _____ at a week-long ban on texting. The Congolese government issued the ban over a week ago (2) _____ the country's national elections. Violence erupted after voters believed the election was (3) _____, so the returned president Joseph Kabila banned SMS messages to restore (4) _____ order to the streets. This is very bad news for the 1.4 million deaf people in the country who (5) _____ on texting as a major means of communication. Deaf people in the capital Kinshasa say the ban represents a (6) _____ to their lives as they cannot receive warnings on (7) _____ in the city. Four people were killed in Kinshasa following the announcement of the election (8) _____.

rely

rigged

results

angry

threat

violence

following

public

BBC News reporter Thomas Hubert says Congo's Interior Minister Adolphe Lumanu had been "forced to (9) _____ all...text messaging services to preserve public order" as they were being used to "incite ethnic (10) _____, insurrection and xenophobia". Mr Hubert reports that: "The measure (11) _____ deaf Congolese people have been condemned to indefinite (12) _____." Pastor Kisangala, the deaf community's religious minister in Kinshasa, told Mr Hubert about how (13) _____ the situation was: "We're finding it very hard to (14) _____. All our communications used to go through SMS messages. Our members are (15) _____ across the city, some are ill in hospital, others are (16) _____. Without communication we don't even know about it," he said.

serious

hatred

scattered

isolation

dying

suspend

means

communicate

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

Deaf people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are _____
ban on texting. The Congolese government _____ over a
week ago following the country's national elections. Violence
_____ believed the _____, so the returned
president Joseph Kabila banned SMS messages to restore public order to the
streets. This is very bad news for the 1.4 million deaf people in the country
_____ as a major means of communication. Deaf people in
the capital Kinshasa say the ban _____ to their lives as they
cannot receive warnings on violence in the city. Four people were killed in
Kinshasa following the announcement of the election results.

BBC News reporter Thomas Hubert says Congo's Interior Minister Adolphe
Lumanu had been "_____ all...text messaging services to
preserve public order" as they were being used to "_____,
insurrection and xenophobia". Mr Hubert reports that: "The measure means
deaf Congolese people have been condemned _____."
Pastor Kisangala, the deaf community's religious minister in Kinshasa, told
Mr Hubert about how _____ was: "We're finding it very
hard to communicate. All our communications used to go
_____. Our members are _____ city,
some are ill in hospital, others are dying. Without communication we don't
even know about it," he said.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'deaf' and 'people'.

deaf	people
-------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• angry• voters• news• capital• threat• results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• suspend• ethnic• isolation• serious• scattered• dying
--	--

STUDENT TEXTING SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

Write five GOOD questions about texting in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

TEXTING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'deaf'?
- c) What do you think about this news?
- d) How would a texting ban affect your life?
- e) Was communication better before texting came along?
- f) Do you prefer texting, e-mail or writing letters?
- g) Is the Congo government wrong to ban texting in the country?
- h) How much do you rely on texting?
- i) Is texting changing your language?

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TEXTING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) How would you communicate without a mobile phone?
- c) What advice would you give to Congo's deaf?
- d) Is banning texting a useful tool for governments?
- e) What can the international community do for Congo's deaf people?
- f) Should the world provide a special satellite so people can always text, even if their country bans messaging?
- g) Have you done much texting recently?
- h) What do you think texting will be like 50 years from now?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Congo's president Joseph Kabila?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1112/111215-deaf_people.html

Deaf people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are angry at a week-long ban (1) _____ texting. The Congolese government issued the ban over a week ago (2) _____ the country's national elections. Violence erupted after voters believed the election was (3) _____, so the returned president Joseph Kabila banned SMS messages to restore public order to the streets. This is very bad news for the 1.4 million deaf people in the country who rely (4) _____ texting as a major means of communication. Deaf people in the capital Kinshasa say the ban represents a (5) _____ to their lives as they cannot receive warnings on violence in the city. Four people were killed in Kinshasa following the announcement (6) _____ the election results.

BBC News reporter Thomas Hubert says Congo's Interior Minister Adolphe Lumanu had been "(7) _____ to suspend all...text messaging services to preserve public order" as they were being used to "(8) _____ ethnic hatred, insurrection and xenophobia". Mr Hubert reports that: "The measure means deaf Congolese people have been condemned to indefinite (9) _____." Pastor Kisangala, the deaf community's religious minister in Kinshasa, told Mr Hubert about how (10) _____ the situation was: "We're finding it very hard to communicate. All our communications used to go through SMS messages. Our members are (11) _____ across the city, some are ill in hospital, (12) _____ are dying. Without communication we don't even know about it," he said.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) of | (b) at | (c) by | (d) on |
| 2. | (a) follows | (b) followed | (c) following | (d) followers |
| 3. | (a) rugged | (b) rigged | (c) ragged | (d) raged |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) by | (d) of |
| 5. | (a) treat | (b) threaten | (c) threat | (d) treaty |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) to | (c) as | (d) of |
| 7. | (a) faced | (b) forced | (c) placed | (d) appeased |
| 8. | (a) incite | (b) grate | (c) robust | (d) current |
| 9. | (a) isolating | (b) isolation | (c) isolated | (d) isolate |
| 10. | (a) sever | (b) several | (c) serious | (d) series |
| 11. | (a) scattered | (b) splattered | (c) smattered | (d) shattered |
| 12. | (a) other | (b) the other | (c) another | (d) others |

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HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about texting. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TEXTING: Make a poster about texting. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DEAF PEOPLE: Write a magazine article about the deaf people in Congo. Include imaginary interviews with one deaf person and a government minister responsible for the ban.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Congo president Joseph Kabila. Ask him three questions about the texting ban. Give him three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. T c. F d. T e. F f. F g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. angry | a. furious |
| 2. ban | b. prohibition |
| 3. erupted | c. broke out |
| 4. rely | d. depend |
| 5. following | e. after |
| 6. suspend | f. postpone |
| 7. preserve | g. maintain |
| 8. incite | h. fuel |
| 9. scattered | i. spread |
| 10. ill | j. sick |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. angry at a week-long | a. ban on texting |
| 2. voters believed the election | b. was rigged |
| 3. very bad news for the 1.4 million | c. deaf people |
| 4. the ban represents a threat | d. to their lives |
| 5. following the announcement of | e. the election results |
| 6. forced to suspend all text | f. messaging services |
| 7. preserve public | g. order |
| 8. incite ethnic | h. hatred |
| 9. We're finding it very hard | i. to communicate |
| 10. Our members are scattered | j. across the city |

GAP FILL:

Deaf anger at Congo ban on texting

Deaf people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are (1) **angry** at a week-long ban on texting. The Congolese government issued the ban over a week ago (2) **following** the country's national elections. Violence erupted after voters believed the election was (3) **rigged**, so the returned president Joseph Kabila banned SMS messages to restore (4) **public** order to the streets. This is very bad news for the 1.4 million deaf people in the country who (5) **rely** on texting as a major means of communication. Deaf people in the capital Kinshasa say the ban represents a (6) **threat** to their lives as they cannot receive warnings on (7) **violence** in the city. Four people were killed in Kinshasa following the announcement of the election (8) **results**.

BBC News reporter Thomas Hubert says Congo's Interior Minister Adolphe Lumanu had been "forced to (9) **suspend** all...text messaging services to preserve public order" as they were being used to "incite ethnic (10) **hatred**, insurrection and xenophobia". Mr Hubert reports that: "The measure (11) **means** deaf Congolese people have been condemned to indefinite (12) **isolation**." Pastor Kisangala, the deaf community's religious minister in Kinshasa, told Mr Hubert about how (13) **serious** the situation was: "We're finding it very hard to (14) **communicate**. All our communications used to go through SMS messages. Our members are (15) **scattered** across the city, some are ill in hospital, others are (16) **dying**. Without communication we don't even know about it," he said.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d

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