



# **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT**

## **ATAR course examination 2022**

### **Recording transcript**

This is the 2022 ATAR examination in English as an Additional Language or Dialect, Section One: Listening.

You will hear **two** texts. Each text will be played twice. There will be a short pause between the first and second readings. After the second reading, there will be time to answer the questions.

You may make notes at any time. Your notes will not be marked. You may come back to this section at any time during the working time for this paper.

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Text 1 will begin in **one** minute. Use this time to read the Questions for Text 1.

*(1 minute silence)*

**Text 1: Is social media changing how we speak?** (First reading)

Listen to this interview about language change and answer Questions 1 to 7.

*I am the first voice you will hear, I am the interviewer.*

*I am the second voice you will hear, representing author, Lisa De Vis*

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Interviewer: Good evening and welcome to Radio National. Tonight's discussion poses the question: Is social media changing how we speak? Welcome to Lisa De Vis, our guest and author of the best-selling book, 'Let's Talk!' to discuss this issue with us.

Lisa De Vis: Great to be here with you, Matt, and hello to all your listeners.

Interviewer: Lisa, can you define 'social media' for our listeners.

Lisa De Vis: Sure. The term refers to online, computer-based technology that has become a new way of communicating, giving us quick electronic sharing of such content as personal information, ideas, documents, videos and photos. Among the most popular platforms are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Interviewer: So, first of all, the big question: just how big is the use of social media here in Australia?

Lisa De Vis: It's huge! In January 2021, almost 80% of Australians were active users of social media compared to 58% in 2015.

Interviewer: That's an amazing increase in the number of active users! So, tell us more about 'how is social media changing how we speak?'

Lisa De Vis: Firstly, it's the words we use. English dictionaries, such as Oxford and Collins have included new words that have sprung from social media. But, in fact, most of these new words are actually hybrids of existing terms or ideas. For example, terms like 'sharenting' which refers to parents sharing their children's lives on social media and 'floordrobe' which means using your bedroom floor as a wardrobe.

Interviewer: Do we know where such words originated?

Lisa De Vis: It's very hard to find their origins. Most have just been created by an unknown person somewhere in the network and others have been created by social media hashtags or by celebrities on the internet. But, because we're now sharing by text and tweets and Instagram, all these new words appear everywhere and spread very quickly!

Interviewer: We certainly have a vibrant changing vocabulary these days, Lisa. You also mention in your book the language ‘tools’ being developed and used extensively on social media. Can you explain this to us?

Lisa De Vis: Yes, for example, a widely used language ‘tool’ is where a word is made from the initial letters of a group of words. Examples are LOL (laugh out loud) and TTYL (talk to you later). These are now commonplace substitutes for whole sentences. Whole conversations can be made up of such abbreviations that demonstrate how social media speeds up communication by providing faster interaction and more instant gratification.

Interviewer: Critics say that social media has led us to ‘dumbing down’ our language. However, you constantly praise the power that social media has given us to control and take part in invigorating and developing our written and spoken language. Why is this?

Lisa De Vis: Some people don’t like the creation of these new words by social media because they’re not traditional or conventional, but it’s certainly not ‘dumbing down’. This is an exciting time of increased communication and dynamic language as new words are created and these new words spread around the globe. We are crossing linguistic, geographical and cultural boundaries in a whole new way which is amazing!

Interviewer: And it isn’t just the written language that we use on social media that is changing. Could you tell us more about how social media has affected our behaviour in social settings, particularly in relation to how we talk to each other.

Lisa De Vis: There’s a growing tendency for us to avoid public social situations. It is quite common to see people in meetings or couples in restaurants with their heads down looking at their mobile phones just scrolling through social media. This is leading unfortunately to more of us disengaging instead of making conversation or participating in social interactions. We need to make sure people are aware of social etiquette, which is to put your phone away when someone is speaking to you.

Another change is that social media has made the way we speak much more casual. We are using informal language, shortened words, abbreviations and even symbols, such as emojis, to communicate. However, using this new casual language has left so many people unaware of when it is inappropriate to use it. We need to ensure that we are teaching our children the clear distinction between this and the more formal language that you need in a more formal setting, such as a job interview.

Interviewer: Thank you Lisa. This has been a fascinating and enlightening discussion about how our language is changing through the growing influence of social media.

Lisa De Vis: Thank you, Matt. It has been a pleasure.

Interviewer: So, has social media changed the way we speak and write English? Yes, undeniably. And if you want to learn more about this phenomenon, read Lisa’s book ‘Let’s Talk’.

*(1 minute silence)*

**Text 1:** (Second reading)

Now answer questions 1 to 7.

Text 2 will begin in **one** minute. Use this time to read the Questions for Text 2.

*(1 minute silence)*

**Text 2: How volunteering makes Australia strong** (First reading)

Listen to this lecture and answer Questions 8 to 15.

*I am the voice you will hear, I am the lecturer.*

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My name is Dr Garth Lopez. Welcome to my second lecture in our series on 'What makes Australians strong'. The focus of this lecture is on the positive contribution volunteers make to Australian society, especially when we are faced with natural disasters such as floods and bushfires. It is during such events that Australians are so willing to volunteer their services in any way they can to help their fellow Australians, so that everyone pulls together in a united effort.

Two types of volunteering can be observed at such times. The first is voluntary activity that arises naturally when people just 'pitch in' to help their neighbours. It is unstructured and spontaneous. An example would be a person who helps mop up the water from inside a neighbour's flooded house. The second type is formal volunteering that is more organised and offers formal duties and positions for people to fill, such as being members of a clean-up and recovery team.

With formal volunteering, three types can be identified. The first type of formal volunteering involves locals working for an existing welfare organisation that provides material aid such as food and medical supplies, shelter or evacuation assistance.

A second type of formal volunteering also involves pre-existing community organisations but these focus more on social activities and community support – social and sporting events, theatre, music concerts and the arts. Often such organisations aim to raise money or collect goods that will assist the victims of a natural disaster. Bushfire survivors were engaged in a wide range of activities, such as participating in local community committees or other types of recovery efforts such as planting gardens, chopping wood and making jam.

So how does volunteering make a positive contribution and strengthen a community? Studies have found that volunteering, by connecting people together, fosters a sense of control over people's lives and helps to develop strong, resilient communities. Furthermore, bonding between volunteers results in long-term friendships particularly after a natural disaster.

These studies also found that there were many positive outcomes from both formal and informal volunteering. Volunteers, recipients of the volunteer efforts and the local community all benefitted. For many volunteers there were therapeutic outcomes accompanied by an increased capacity to cope and move forward with a degree of optimism.

There were also many comments made about how volunteers were developing leadership qualities which would be useful in the community for years to come. A local government official also told us about members of the community recovery committee who had developed new skills and confidence as a result of volunteering.

Finally, the research studies revealed that volunteer efforts by community members had the effect of linking them back into the community and establishing closer links with their neighbours or those who live in their community. Just like the links that give a chain its strength, so volunteering that links individuals and groups together is what makes Australia strong.

Thank you for listening to this lecture.

*(1 minute silence)*

**Text 2:** (Second reading)

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Now answer Questions 8 to 15.

This is the end of Section One.

Supervisors, please turn off the sound equipment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Text 1

Paragraph 8 (sentence 4) adapted from: Wood, P. (2016). *From #Brexit to #Woke: Social media is changing the way we speak*. Retrieved May, 2022, from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-22/social-media-is-changing-the-way-we-speak/8045362>

Paragraph 12 information from: Wil. (2016). *Has social media changed the way we speak and write English?* Retrieved May, 2022, from [https://englishlive.ef.com/blog/english-in-the-real-world/has-social-media-changed-the-way-we-speak-and-write-english/#:~:text=The%20use%20of%20acronyms%20\(an,by%20lessening%20the%20need%20to](https://englishlive.ef.com/blog/english-in-the-real-world/has-social-media-changed-the-way-we-speak-and-write-english/#:~:text=The%20use%20of%20acronyms%20(an,by%20lessening%20the%20need%20to)

Paragraph 6 (sentence 2) from: Carter, A. (2022). *Want to learn a language? Try TikTok*. Retrieved May, 2022, from <https://theconversation.com/want-to-learn-a-language-try-tiktok-174702>

### Text 2

Adapted from: Webber, R., & Jones, K. (2011). *After the bushfires: Surviving and volunteering*. Retrieved May, 2022, from <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-apr-2011-after-the-bushfires-surviving-and-volunteering/>  
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