

29 March 2011

Brian,

First off, let me say that I really like your topic, and I think it's a very important one. Being in a long distance relationship myself, I know very well the pros and cons of textual communication in relationships. Your analysis and explanations hit the nail on the head.

One thing you didn't discuss that I think is important is emoticons (or "smilies"). It's true that emotion is often very difficult to convey to a text message, IM, or email. That's where emoticons come into play. You can say something that could be construed as either serious or sarcastic. By adding an emoticon, you make it clear: :) or :(for serious, ;) for joking. They seem silly, but that's only because they're a relatively new invention in the language. Personally, I think they add a lot to writing and I expect them to appear in more and more forms of writing as time goes on. I already see them in a lot of professional emails. It's often just a more much efficient and reliable way to convey emotions or meanings. It definitely makes all the difference when communicating with a significant other, when emotion is often more important to convey correctly than ever.

Other than that you seem to have covered all bases, as far as I picked up in my reading. Check through your draft for some notes I made that you might find helpful.

Great work! Keep it up!

Your peer,

John Pray