

◇ Chapter 11  
The Impact of Technology

Relationship Skills

THE SPECIAL LANGUAGE OF E-MAIL

Many teenagers talk with their friends across town and across the country by sending e-mail messages. What makes these messages so unique? Think about how you and your friends express yourselves when writing e-mail messages to each other. In many cases this type of communication is very different from the way you write in school or in the workplace. It is also very different from the way people communicated 50 or 100 years ago.

**Directions:** Listed below in the left-hand column are some general topics of conversation. In the right-hand column, use the special language of electronic mail to create a brief message on each topic.

Conversation Topic	E-mail Message
1. Expressing your sadness about something	
2. Canceling plans to visit a friend for the weekend	
3. Planning a surprise birthday party	
4. Sharing wonderful news	

**Directions:** Now, try your “hand” at a handwritten note! In the space below, write a short note to your relatives, thanking them for a birthday present.

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### Comparing Communication

1. How do the e-mail messages you just wrote differ from the note you wrote to your relatives?

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2. Why do you think this style of e-mail writing has developed?

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3. How did people keep in touch with close friends or relatives 100 years ago?

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4. How did people communicate in the workplace 100 years ago?

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5. What are some benefits of modern-day communication?

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6. In what ways is e-mail communication a great equalizer?

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7. What written or verbal communication skills, if any, do you think are in danger of being lost in the twenty-first century?

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