

Dear Student,

Greetings

I hope you are safe and productively utilizing your time to learn new skills and sharpening existing skills during this COVID19 pandemic.

Let me take you an introduction to Reading lessons

Well, **reading** is one of the important skills that you need to focus on and develop during your academic studies.

What is reading?

Often we all have a miss- conception that Reading is for EXAMS!!!! NO.

A skills is an activity that one may do by practicing at various levels and can master it. **Reading** is also one such academic skill that consist of **levels** and **goals**.

The general **purpose** of Reading is to **interpret meaning** from the **signs** and **symbols** (words, phrases, clauses and sentences of course!) **given** in a passage.

The **quality** of one's reading depends on two factors, namely **speed** and **comprehension**. In other words, how **fast** one reads and the **volume** of **information** **comprehended**.

Given below are a few links you may find it useful to practice and understand Reading skills from simple to complex levels.

I am available on 0779597389 and sasitharans@esn.ac.lk for any clarification.

Good luck for your online and remote learning experience.



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Reading Skills

Useful links

1. To understand what is reading and its scope: A good video tutorial
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-reading-definition-process.html>
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-reading-definition-process.html>
2. To understand what are the skills involved in reading: A good website with examples
<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/what-are-skills-reading>
3. To measure your own reading speed and understand the quality of your reading
<http://www.readingsoft.com/http://www.readingsoft.com/>

Enjoy your reading!

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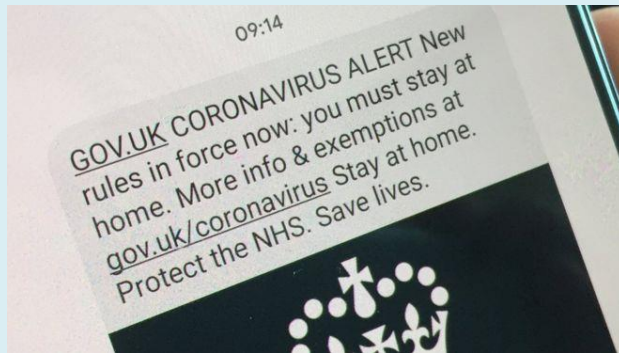
15.06.2020

Reading Text:

Level Descriptor:

Level: Intermediate suitable for First Year Undergraduates UTEL: 5.0-6.5

Coronavirus: Mobile networks send 'stay at home' text



The text reads:

GOV.UK CORONAVIRUS ALERT. New rules in force now: you must stay at home. More info and exemptions at gov.uk/coronavirus. Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

Some customers have already received the message, while others are set to get it later in the day. The network O2 told the BBC it was sending the texts in batches adding it could take until 22:00GMT to complete the task.

The government has had to work with the operators to get the message sent because an emergency alert system, trialled seven years ago, was never put into practice. If it had been, the government could have bypassed the operators and sent messages directly to phone users, as has happened in countries such as South Korea and the Netherlands.

Such a service would have allowed the government to bypass the mobile networks and send messages directly to all of the UK's mobile phones. The trials run by the Cabinet Office in 2014 were apparently successful, with three mobile operators testing the broadcast of text messages in a defined area.

The final report on the trials said the idea had proved popular with focus groups and other members of the public surveyed about it. It concluded that "the system would be an effective way of getting people to take specific protective action during an emergency".

The report also suggested it would be possible to send alerts to the public within 15 minutes of making a decision. It is not clear why the system was not then put into practice, although one operator told the BBC that cost might have been an issue.

While the link in the government text is safe to click, the public is being warned to be cautious about other unsolicited coronavirus messages they receive. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre has warned that criminals have ramped up bogus email campaigns that aim to trick users into clicking links that can lead to their computers being infected or seek to fool the recipients into divulging sensitive information. It has cautioned that people should also be wary of opening attachments unless they know the sender. Security firms have also warned that some scammers have sent out bogus SMS messages.

"These SMS spam attacks attempt to use the fear around the coronavirus worldwide emergency to try to push their targets to respond to the SMS spam, and so monetise (make money from) the attack," wrote AdaptiveMobile Security on its blog.

The issue poses a challenge to the government if it intends to continue using text alerts as a means to communicate its advice.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-52017451>

Read the following questions and provide short answers:

1. What is this text about? Provide your answer using key words.
2. Why the UK government does find it difficult to communicate directly to the public text alerts during the COVID- 19 crisis?
3. Why South Korea and the Netherlands are ahead of the UK in terms of efficient text alerts on time to the public?
4. What is the “report on Trial “being mentioned in the text?
5. Was “the Trial” a successful one? Explain.
6. According to the trial report would it be possible to alert citizens within the quickest possible time to directly alert and how long would it possibly take to do so?
7. As far as the issue mentioned in question 6 concerned, what is the main concern raised by the independent mobile operators?

8. What would the threat assessment be of such text messages meant for the public generated by the government?

9. What do you think of implementing such direct text messages to public by the government and what is your assessment of such threats mentioned in your answer for question 8 in the Sri Lankan context.

10. What is your opinion on the writing of "Adaptivemobile security" on its Blog?

11. Write the summary of the above text in 30 words. Use your own words.

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Source edited for educational purposes by:

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Suggested answers:

1. About sending text messages directly to public during crisis (in the UK) and the possible challenges it generates.
2. The system experimented was not followed up and implemented
3. In these countries the system is being brought in to practice and being implemented already
4. The UK government conducted a trial by involving three mobile operators and delivered messages to a focused area and experimented in 2014. This is being referred to as the trial in the text
5. Yes because the report suggests by its evidence based findings
6. Yes and about 15 minutes
7. Cost involved
8. They can be manipulated by interested parties either to retrieve data or money and the impending danger of cyber-attacks on systems around
9. Any logic and rational answer acceptable

Such threats are possible in the Sri Lankan context therefore Advanced protective mechanism could prevent the crisis if implemented with foresight

10. It is true and can happen anywhere. People should be educated to handle messages and separate fact from opinion

11. Summary

Sending text messages directly to the public in times of crisis in the UK has its own challenges due to a number of factors though successfully implemented in other countries 30 words

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