

## The Power of Per

### Scene: Side Effects of Texting

*Setting: Aymara just sent her friend Giselle a link to an article about texting. Giselle opened the article and she couldn't believe what she was reading.*

**Giselle:** This professor says we make more mistakes and say things without thinking because of *texting*.

**Reggie:** What are you talking about? No professor has been watching me text.

**Giselle:** (rolling her eyes) Uh, Reggie, when I said "we," I meant teenagers, not you and me. Anyway, the prof says the problem is that phones figure out what you're going to type after hitting two or three keys. Now we're getting too used to phones making decisions for us. That makes us do things with more **speed**, but also with lots more mistakes.

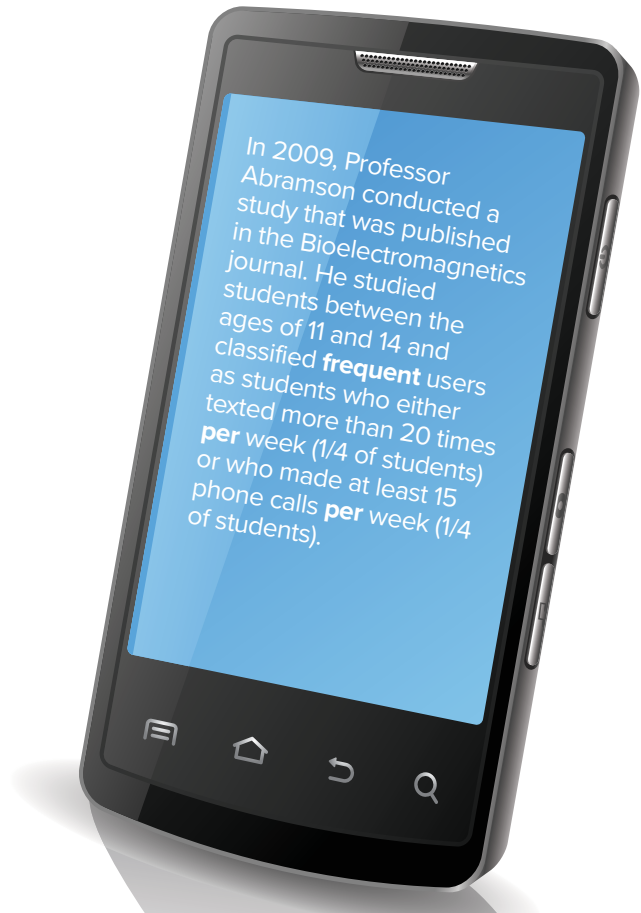
**Reggie:** Hmm, yesterday I did send Aymara a text that read, "Hope Valley Day," when it should have read, "Happy Valentine's Day." What's the article say?

**Giselle:** You want me to read it out loud? Okay, here goes:



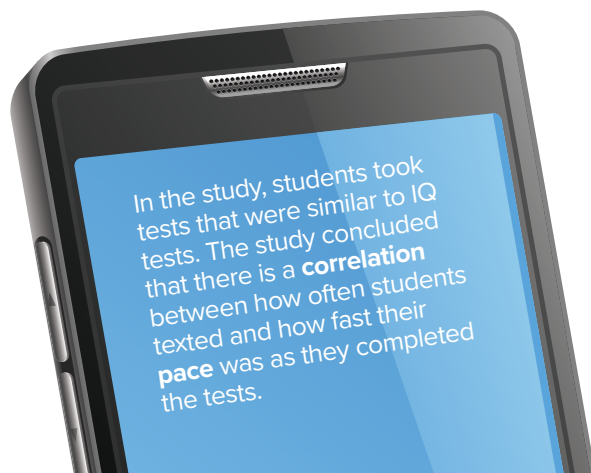
**Reggie:** Yeah, someone's always pointing out our mistakes. How about writing about how fast we are at typing?

**Giselle:** Reggie! Let me finish...



**Reggie:** In 2009! Did they even have cell phones back then? Twenty times **per** week is nothing! My BFFs text way more.

**Giselle:** I know, right? Get this:

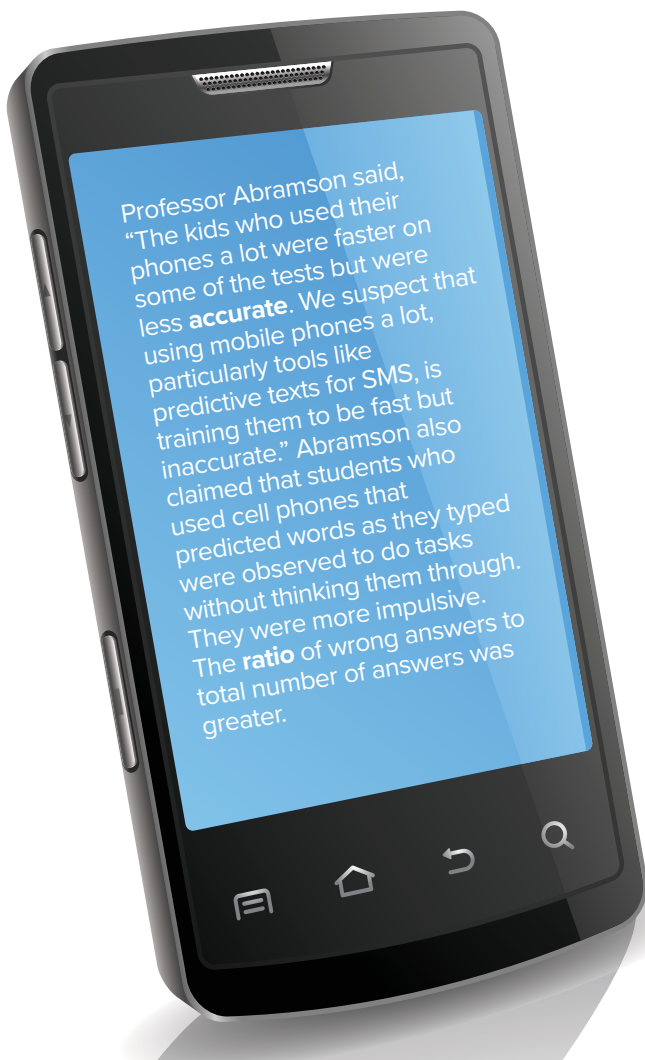


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### Scene: Side Effects of Texting (continued)

**Reggie: Correlation?** That means something's connected, right?

**Giselle:** Kind of, but not necessarily tied together like a cause and effect. They just happen at the same time. Kind of like: I grew taller this week, and my hair grew longer, but growing taller didn't cause my hair to grow longer. They both happen together, but some other reason causes both of them to happen. According to my mom, that reason is eating disgusting vegetables like broccoli. So this guy is saying that kids who text are likely to **speed** through the test. Let's see...where was I...

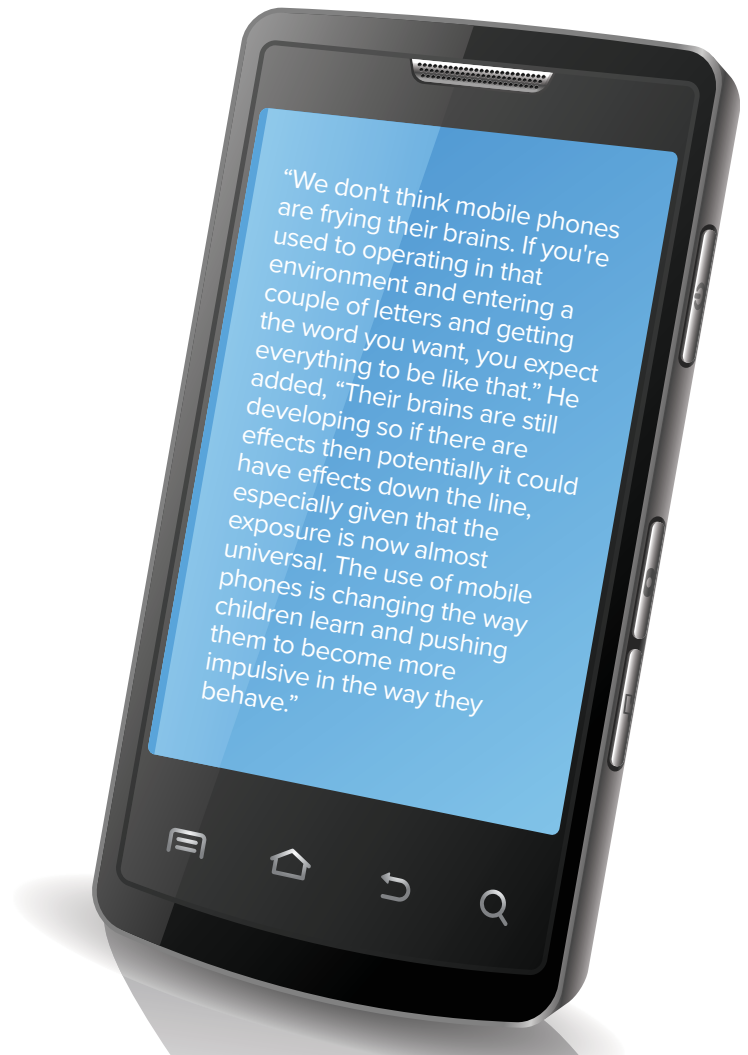


**Reggie:** Okay, this isn't cool. My dad better not see this. He already says I'm impulsive because my brain isn't connected to my body. Now he'll say that I'm impulsive because my cell phone is guessing what I'm typing. He's going to unplug me!

**Giselle:** Well, maybe both are true?

**Reggie:** Hey!

**Giselle:** Wait, listen to what else Professor Abramson said:



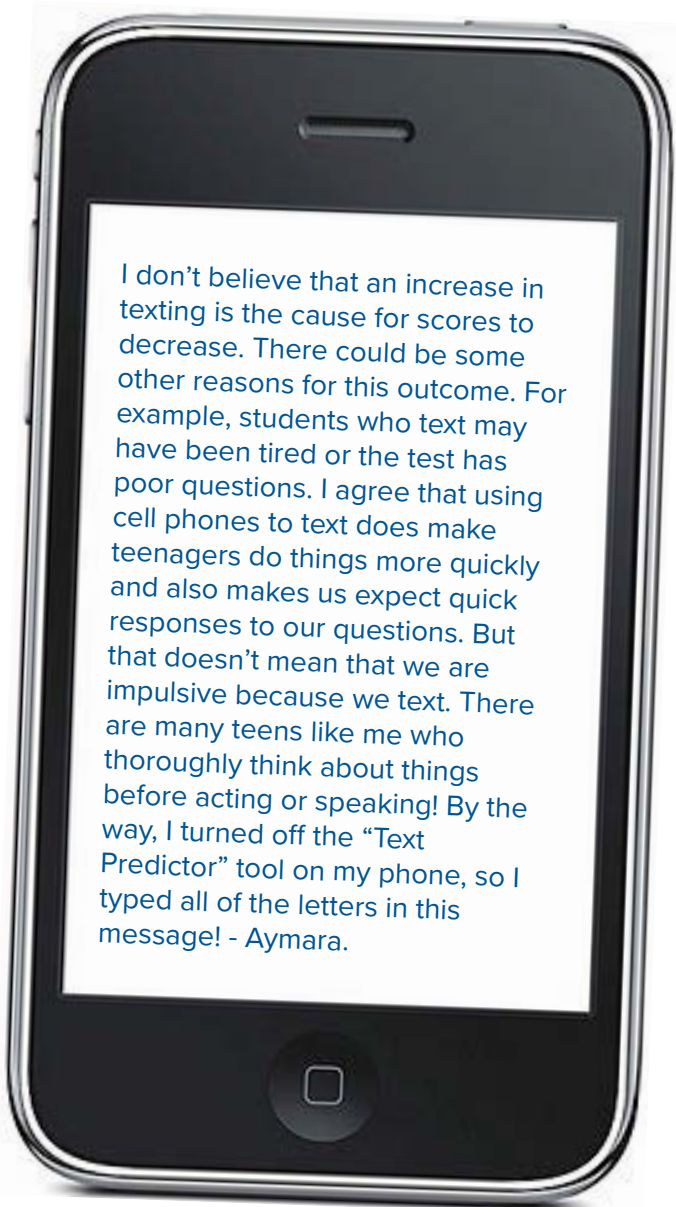
**Reggie: (sarcastically)** Nice of the professor to say that my phone isn't turning my brain into french fries. But I think it's too much to say that using phones makes teens impulsive.

**Giselle:** Yep, I agree. I don't think phones cause us to make other kinds of mistakes either. Say, I wonder what Aymara thinks about this article? She sent it to us. Why don't you send her a text and ask?

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### Scene: Side Effects of Texting (continued)

**Reggie:** (*a few minutes later*) Hey, Giselle, here is Aymara's answer:



**Giselle:** (*to Reggie*) This is classic Aymara—totally logical and totally opinionated! And she typed every word! Man, this is really long. She must text, like, at the **speed** of light!

**Reggie:** Hmm, okay, that's a good **pace**. But my thumbs hit the keys so fast, they burn the phone! I'm faster than Aymara.

**Giselle:** No way. Look, she filled my screen twice, no three times! Can you really beat that?

**Reggie:** But you don't even know how long it took her to do the texting! She could've taken five minutes! Here, time me for 30 seconds using the timer on your phone.

*Thirty seconds elapse.*

**Giselle:** ... and STOP! Let me check how you did. Nineteen words in 30 seconds. That's pretty fast! And I'm sorry but I'm counting LOL as one word. Not three. Okay, let's figure out your **speed**: 19 words **per** 30 seconds. And I can shift that to a **per minute rate** by doubling. That's 38 words **per** minute. For Aymara's text though, we know she typed a lot, but we don't know how long it took her. So I guess we don't know a **rate** for her.

**Reggie:** How about sending Aymara a text and tell her to time herself as she texts? Then we can compare our **rates**!

*Giselle sends Aymara the message.*

**Giselle:** Aymara is up for the challenge. Look:

