

## Goodbye to *hi* and hey to *catch ya*

### Aim of worksheet

To give students reading practice and to extend vocabulary. The theme of the text is language, particularly greetings and farewells, used on the Internet and in instant messaging.

### Time and materials

Allow about 45 minutes.

The activities are best done with a dictionary so the students can find and/or check their answers. All the language in the worksheet is in the Second Edition of the *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (MED).

### Procedure

- 1 Ask the students to look at the title of the article and ask them what greetings and farewells they use in emails and instant messaging.
- 2 Ask the students to read the text. Tell them not to worry at this stage about the exact meaning of every word.
- 3 Elicit a summary of the main ideas of the text. You could ask a few comprehension questions to check understanding and to help explain meaning. For example:

*How many instant messages are sent in the UK every day?*

*Which are the most popular greetings with young people according to the text?*

*What are the origins and associations of Yo and Wassup?*

*Which are the most popular farewells with young people according to the text?*

*Why is a lot of Internet language shortened and abbreviated?*

*Why is this 'new' language becoming so popular?*

- 4 Ask the students, working alone or in pairs and using a dictionary, to answer the questions in Activities 1 to 4.
- 5 Go through the answers and check understanding with the students.
- 6 Ask the students to form pairs or small groups and discuss the questions in the **For discussion** section. Ask them to report anything interesting from their discussions.

### Answers

#### ► Activity 1

- a** type of (spoken) language used by people in a particular area that is different from the main language used in a country
- b** lively and fashionable
- d** both mean 'immediate' and are very often interchangeable

#### ► Activity 2

- a** often seen in public, mentioned in newspapers or appearing on television
- b**
  - 1 very good in quality and very expensive
  - 2 successful and determined to achieve more things
  - 3 involving people in important or powerful positions
  - 4 showing strong moral principles
  - 5 important and powerful in a company or organization
  - 6 of high rank or status

**Answers (continued)**

► **Activity 3**

- a** moved or pushed (forward)
- b** *propeller*: on a ship or aircraft; *propellant*: in a spray can
- c** ideas, methods or people that are considered ordinary or normal and accepted by most people
- d** meaning 1: grown in someone's garden, not on a large farm;  
meaning 2: a home-grown product, idea or performer comes from a particular local area or small place
- e** meaning 2

► **Activity 4**

- a** the use of only a few words
- b** an area of activity considered as belonging to or controlled by a particular person or group
- c** an address on the Internet
- d** give something a particular quality that is clearly noticeable
- e** not comfortable, relaxed or confident
- f** behave like someone of your age
- g** **1** to behave in a way that does not show what someone is really like or what they really feel  
**2** to find someone and interrupt them when they are doing something wrong  
**3** to organise your life or work in a better way, especially by having clear goals and a plan for achieving them  
**4** to behave badly
- h** ordinary and not interesting or exciting, especially because of happening too regularly