Texting turns 20
短信问世20周年

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短信问世整整二十年了。1992年12月3日，一位工程师通过沃达丰的英国通信网从一台电脑上向一部手机成功地发出了"圣诞快乐"这一划时代的短信。如今，各种手机之间的短信往来已经司空见惯几乎人人都在使用。以下是 BBC 记者 Grant Ferret 发回的报道。

When Neil Papworth sent the first text message from his computer to a colleague's mobile phone on the 3rd of December 20 years ago, he didn't wait for a response. In those days it wasn't possible to send a message from a phone.

But the **spread** of mobile technology, combined with the cheapness and **brevity** of texts, ensured that they became **a global phenomenon**, changing language in the process.

In the past year though, in a number of countries including the United States and Britain, the **volume** of text messages has fallen slightly for the first time. The SMS has been hit by the free **messaging** alternatives available on **smartphones**.

Questions:

1. Who was the first person to send a text message 20 years ago?

2. Why didn't he wait for a response?

3. What characterises general text messages?

4. What challenge is SMS facing?

Vocabulary 词汇

spread	扩散
brevity	简洁
a global phenomenon	全球现象
volume	（总）数量
messaging	信息发送
smartphones	智能手机

Answers to the questions:

1. Who was the first person to send a text message 20 years ago?

Answer: Neil Papworth.

2. Why didn't he wait for a response?

Answer: Because in those days it wasn't possible to send a message from a phone.

3. What characterises general text messages?

Answer: Cheapness and brevity.

4. What challenge is SMS facing?

Answer: Free messaging alternatives available on smartphones.