Look at the chat and do the exercises to improve your writing skills.

Preparation
Match the phrases with the common abbreviations and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1. at
2. Lisa’s house
3. (hearts =) love
4. you
5. kisses
6. laughing out loud

a. Lisa’s
b. u
c. @
d. lol
e. <3 <3 <3
f. xxx
Chat

Hello! 10:30
How was the party? 10:30

Hi! 10:31
Really good, thx! 10:31
Jedd was there! 10:31

Who ???? 10:32

Jedd Summers! 😊 😊 😊 10:32
in 6th form 10:32
and he’s got a scooter 10:32

Oh ... Spike! 10:32

Spike??? 10:33

That’s his nickname. 10:33

Is it? u know him?! 10:33
Not really. He goes to judo with my sister. 10:34
No way!! He’s sooooo cooool!! 10:34
He was DJing 10:34

Cool! Anyway, u coming to Lisa’s 2moro? 10:35

What for? 10:35

To do our geog project. 10:35

Ooops! 10:36
I forgot. 10:36

What time? 10:37

Ok, I’ll b there 10:38

Cool. C u @ Lisa’s then. 10:38

C u later! 10:39
xx 10:39

Top Tips for writing

1. You don’t need to write full sentences or questions.
2. Add extra punctuation marks or vowels to add excitement.
3. Use abbreviations.
   lol = laughing out loud    thx = thanks
4. Use letters or numbers instead of words.
   u = you    r = are    2 = to    c = see    b = be
5. Use symbols.
   @ = at    <3 = heart    x = a kiss    XO = hug and kiss
6. Only write in this way to your friends.

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1. Check your writing: gap fill
Complete the text message with a symbol from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&lt;3&lt;3&lt;3!!!</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>@ Bob’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>soooooooo</td>
<td>XOXOXO</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hey!
1. We’re __________. (at Bob’s house)
2. __________ (are you) coming?
3. Getting pizza!!! __________ (We love pizza!!!)
4. … from Big Al’s. It’s __________ (really really) good!
5. __________ (See you) later!
6. __________ (Hugs and kisses)

2. Check your writing: gap fill
Write the sentence again in text message style. Use symbols, abbreviations, letters and numbers.

1. See you later. __________ later.
2. I’m at school. I’m __________.
3. How are you? How __________?
4. I’m fine, thanks. I’m fine, __________.
5. I love pizza. I __________ pizza.
6. We’re going to Sam’s house. We’re going __________.
7. I’ll be there at 5 pm. I’ll __________ there __________.
8. See you tomorrow. __________.

Discussion
What other words do you know in text message style? Do you prefer writing in text message style or in full?