

## Interview 1

Start Time: 18:01:47; End Time: 19:52:04

Daniel says: (18:02:05)

Hey, I'm Daniel... I'm guessing you're [P:L]'s partner?

[P:A]says: (18:02:24)

Hello, I'm [P:A].. I am indeed!

Daniel says: (18:02:32)

awesome, hey [P:A]

Daniel says: (18:02:55)

it wasn't until today that i realised at no point had I found out what you're name was... :\$

[P:A]says: (18:03:05)

Hahaha that's totally fine!

Daniel says: (18:03:20)

is [P:L] there with you or are we waiting for her to join us?

[P:A]says: (18:03:43)

She's added you, and she's just waiting for you to accept

[P:A]says: (18:03:51)

Do you want me to add her to the conversation?

Daniel says: (18:04:08)

please... she's not appeared as a pop-up accept for me yet

Daniel says: (18:04:16)

this is why i don't use msn very much anymore!

[P:L] has been added to the conversation.

[P:A]says: (18:04:40)

There we go

[P:L] says: (18:04:41)

hello

Daniel says: (18:04:47)

hey [P:L]

[P:A] says: (18:04:56)

Hii

Daniel says: (18:05:13)

cool

Daniel says: (18:05:21)

you both been enjoying you're easter breaks?

[P:A] says: (18:05:30)

Indeed we have

[P:A] says: (18:05:40)

Well, I have at least!

[P:L]says: (18:05:50)

yep :) too much work to do though

Daniel says: (18:06:05)

can imagine... month left til the exams?

Daniel says: (18:06:21)

guess it's best we dont focus on that and think of the three months off afterwards...

[P:A] says: (18:06:37)

Hahaa yeah best to look forward to the freedom

[P:L]says: (18:06:39)

haha yeah that's what i'm trying to do!

Daniel says: (18:06:44)

lol

Daniel says: (18:07:57)

so, the reason for this interview/chat thing... it's really aimed at trying to understand how you communicate at the moment and why... so that after you've used the hug belts for a bit we can see if anything much has changed... make sense?

[P:A]says: (18:08:02)

Just incase you can see some crazy looking person in my picture, that's not me, it's my friend :L

Daniel says: (18:08:11)

hahahaha

Daniel says: (18:08:22)

i just assumed you were really happy!

[P:A]says: (18:08:28)

Hahahahaa no

[P:L]says: (18:08:31)

hahaha

[P:A]says: (18:08:36)

Yeaah that makes sense

[P:L]says: (18:08:45)

yep makes sense

Daniel says: (18:08:47)

cool

Daniel says: (18:09:32)

so as a starting point... have you always been in a distance relationship? or how did you get together?

[P:L]says: (18:10:13)

no we were together for around half a year not in a distance relationship before uni

Daniel says: (18:10:29)

I should point out at this point (before we get any further) that this conversation will be completely anonymised, it'll be stored securely and no one will ever be able to associate it back to you... exactly what it says on the consent forms

[P:A]says: (18:10:30)

We were in the same classes at school/college for a few years, and got together towards the beginning of year 13

Daniel says: (18:10:37)

am just meant to reiterate the point

[P:A]says: (18:10:45)

That's fine :)

Daniel says: (18:11:18)

cool... so same classes at secondary/sixth form and then started dating sort of halfway through A2s?

[P:L]says: (18:11:34)

yep pretty much that

[P:A]says: (18:11:36)

Yeah pretty much

Daniel says: (18:11:40)

cool

Daniel says: (18:12:00)

so I'm going to get you to think back now...

Daniel says: (18:12:21)

... could you describe to me how you communicated before you moved away to uni?

Daniel says: (18:12:31)

that is; once you'd started dating...

[P:L]says: (18:12:51)

mainly by texting or on facebook chat (or in person)

[P:A]says: (18:12:58)

We'd see each other at school, outside of school, texting, msn, skype (mainly during exam time)

Daniel says: (18:13:43)

and why do you think you used those ones? did you use them for different things or did they make you feel differently when using them?

Daniel says: (18:13:55)

or both or something else?

[P:A]says: (18:14:35)

Errrrrr.. I guess texting/msn because it's quick and easy to use, rather than calling her up to tell her something funny, or sort out a time of seeing each other or something

[P:L]says: (18:14:52)

they were just the most convenient at the time, we didn't really need to phone much as we'd see each other almost every day at school

[P:A]says: (18:15:17)

Skype was used when we weren't able to see each other because of exams, so I guess that was more personal than texting/msn

Daniel says: (18:16:08)

so outside of exams, because you saw each other everyday, the technologies were really more about short bits of funny stuff or "are you here yet" type messages?

[P:A]says: (18:16:19)

yeah pretty much

[P:A]says: (18:16:34)

After exams we pretty much saw each other everyday during summer

[P:A]says: (18:16:48)

Apart from odd days here and there, and when we went on our holidays abroad

Daniel says: (18:16:58)

ok...

Daniel says: (18:17:13)

... and then skype was used when you were having to revise for exams?

[P:A]says: (18:17:32)

Yeah in the evenings after we'd revised

[P:A]says: (18:17:57)

Not that I can say I did much revising..

Daniel says: (18:18:15)

lol... but you have to put the pretence up, right?

[P:A]says: (18:18:24)

Hahah yeah exactly

Daniel says: (18:18:44)

and how did skype compare to getting to see each other everyday?

[P:L]says: (18:19:26)

it wasn't really the same, not really as personal

[P:A]says: (18:19:38)

Yeah, not as good at all

Daniel says: (18:21:10)

cool... before picking that apart any more, can we discuss how you communicate

now that you live away from one another?

[P:L]says: (18:21:51)

now we talk on the phone almost every day, and if not then skype

[P:A]says: (18:22:01)

We usually text during the day, and then phone in the evenings or skype

[P:A]says: (18:22:10)

And always text good morning/good night

[P:L]says: (18:22:15)

and we also text quite a lot, just to tell eachother what we're up to and how we are doing

[P:A]says: (18:22:26)

If we haven't been on the phone in the evening or something

Daniel says: (18:23:11)

cool... how often do you get to see each other? I mean do you only see each other when you're home in the holidays or do you visit each other at other times as well?

[P:A]says: (18:23:45)

Well I'm currently on a gap year so I do most of the visiting.. Usually every 2/3 weeks for either like between 2-5 days

[P:A]says: (18:24:02)

But then [P:L]'s always home for the holidays so we see eachother then

[P:A]says: (18:24:20)

But she does come down for weekends sometimes

[P:L]says: (18:24:22)

we see eachother at least once a month, usually more

Daniel says: (18:25:19)

excellent... so going back to the technologies... would you say that your use of text messages is roughly similar to what it was before you moved apart?

[P:A]says: (18:26:01)

Kinda of, except we probably tell eachother more in texts now, and text more because we don't see eachother at college or anything like we used to

[P:L]says: (18:26:26)

it is probably more than before, or at least longer texts

Daniel says: (18:27:45)

ok... and then final question specifically on the technologies... why do you tend to phone rather than skype? you described skype earlier as being "less personal" ... how do you think that compares to using the phone?

Daniel says: (18:27:53)

and just a quick check as well

Daniel says: (18:28:04)

are we talking about skype voice only

Daniel says: (18:28:09)

or with video as well?

[P:A]says: (18:28:32)

Phone's easier and quicker.. we don't have to turn on our computers or anything like that

[P:A]says: (18:29:00)

Phone's probably just slightly less personal than skype

[P:L]says: (18:29:04)

we phone more on mobiles because it is more convenient if we want a quick call (no switching on computer faff), but skype is better for if we're feeling distant as it is definitely more personal

[P:A]says: (18:29:10)

And we're talking video and voice

Daniel says: (18:29:50)

so there's the convenience of just using the phone but if you're particularly missing each other you'd head for skype?

[P:A]says: (18:30:13)

Yep

[P:L]says: (18:30:29)

yes, or if we both happen to be on the computer

[P:A]says: (18:30:30)

Or even if we're not missing each other too badly we'll still use it

Daniel says: (18:31:13)

ah ok... and what is it do you think that makes skype that little bit more personal?

[P:A]says: (18:31:48)

Just the fact we can see each other and visually see their reaction to the things we do/say

[P:L]says: (18:32:27)

the video aspect, being able to see reactions and facial expressions makes it a lot more like we're actually together, and gives you more of an idea how the other is feeling

Daniel says: (18:33:29)

that's brilliant, thank you... there's just a few broader questions now, less about specific technologies and more about your general approach to communicating

[P:L]says: (18:34:08)

ok

Daniel says: (18:34:24)

so at the highest level, do you think moving apart/the change in your communication habits has changed your relationship at all?

[P:L]says: (18:35:39)

i think now our relationship feels stronger, even though we've had harder times since being apart

[P:A]says: (18:35:51)

Yeah I'd agree with that

[P:L]says: (18:36:19)

feels more committed

[P:A]says: (18:36:46)

Yeah, and that you have to just trust them fully because you don't know what they're doing apart from them telling you

Daniel says: (18:37:36)

so the difficulties in dealing with being in a distance relationship has strengthened your relationship?

[P:A]says: (18:38:00)

When you put it like that, I guess so

[P:L]says: (18:38:44)

yeah i'd say so

[P:A]says: (18:38:46)

Obviously it is sometimes a strain and hard if we argue or something, but we don't argue very often at all (can't remember the last time we did) so it's not too bad

Daniel says: (18:40:19)

how do you think each individual act of communication (that's each phone call, text message etc) makes you feel now that you're apart? Do you think it's different than when you are together or basically the same?

[P:A]says: (18:40:58)

Hmmmmmm...

[P:A]says: (18:41:48)

I'd say being apart makes them more meaningful than when you're together, as when you're together you can just tell each other face to face the things you'd usually text

[P:L]says: (18:41:57)

i think it means more now as when we're apart it feels more distanced so when there is communication it feels more like it has an impact

[P:A]says: (18:42:15)

Yeah exactly that

Daniel says: (18:42:22)

that's interesting... cool

Daniel says: (18:43:16)

so we're nearly done now, just two questions left... the first is can you think of an example when you really wanted to talk to each other but had to do so in a way which wasn't satisfactory or you didn't like?

Daniel says: (18:43:54)

and it's fine to say "no" if you can't!

[P:A]says: (18:44:33)

I'd say possibly evenings when one of us is going out with our friends or busy, and there isn't time for a call or soemthing

[P:A]says: (18:44:41)

But apart from that, I can't specify anything

[P:L]says: (18:45:02)

there have probably been times when one of us has been out in the evening and so we couldn't speak in person when we would've liked to

Daniel says: (18:46:32)

that neatly leads us onto the last question then... what (if anything) would you like to change about the way you now communicate? It can be anything from changing a particular technology or an organisation thing or anything really... or more than one thing or nothing at all :)

[P:A]says: (18:47:36)

Obviously it would be nice to not be long distance and be able to see each other all the time.. But I think the way we communicate is pretty good

[P:A]says: (18:48:14)

Or we think a teleport machine would be good

Daniel says: (18:48:35)

lol, a teleport machine would be awesome

[P:L]says: (18:48:54)

probably having video chat on a phone, or something more easily accessible. also like your heating device, but one that was on you at all times so it could be completely random and a nice surprise

[P:A]says: (18:49:16)

Yeaaaaaaaaah

[P:A]says: (18:49:26)

Like a bracelet one

[P:A]says: (18:49:37)

Connected via your phone wirelessly or something

[P:L]says: (18:49:45)

yeah or something that goes in your pocket

[P:A]says: (18:50:05)

So you press a button on an app and it would heat the other person

Daniel says: (18:50:12)

or something like your watch? or maybe actually your phone? something you normally carry around with you ahead?

Daniel says: (18:50:15)

\*already?

[P:L]says: (18:50:40)

yeah something you have already on you, so it could just be an addition to it

[P:A]says: (18:50:45)

Yeah

[P:A]says: (18:51:09)

So you could be at work or something and you suddenly get the warmth from it or whatever it would do

Daniel says: (18:51:33)

cool

Daniel says: (18:51:45)

that's brilliant, thanks so much...

[P:A]says: (18:52:04)

Only between two people though, other wise you'd get everyone spamming it and you'd have a hot arm all day or something

Daniel says: (18:52:25)

or friends repeatedly sending you messages to see what happens!

[P:A]says: (18:52:51)

Yeah exactly

Daniel says: (18:54:05)

cool... well unless you have anything else to add or questions to ask, I suggest we call that a wrap... it was very helpful, thank you :D

[P:A]says: (18:54:18)

No worries!

[P:L]says: (18:54:35)

don't think i have any questions :)

[P:A]says: (18:54:37)

Is there another interview at some point or is this the only one?

Daniel says: (18:56:27)

so that's the longest one... there's another (much, much shorter) one after you've finished using the belts and that's just to find out about your thoughts about it and how you've used it.... then at the end of the diaries there are I think two questions about whether you've missed having the belts around, very short indeed!

[P:A]says: (18:56:51)

Okkk brilliant :)

[P:L]says: (18:57:24)

that's fine, looking forward to testing the belts out!

Daniel says: (18:57:44)

excellent... am pleased that you were so excited about decorating them!

[P:L]says: (18:58:49)

hahaha yeah i very much enjoyed painting my caterpillar

Daniel says: (18:59:12)

lol, amazing

Daniel says: (18:59:36)

cool, that was brilliant guys... enjoy the rest of your hols!

[P:A]says: (18:59:59)

BYE

[P:A]says: (19:00:05)

EEEEEEEE

[P:A]has left the conversation.

[P:L]says: (19:00:14)

you too! nice to speak to you :)