

Re: Letters with ****three**** cases?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-07/msg00204.html>

- *From:* Lee Sau Dan <danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 05 Jul 2005 13:19:14 +0800
-

>>>> "Seán" == Seán O'Leathlóbhair <jwlawler@xxxxxxxx> writes:

Seán> I had expected that many people would have answered this
Seán> one. It is "Short Message Service". This is a feature
Seán> available on most or all GSM mobile (cell) phones. It is
Seán> also commonly called "text".

"Text"? I've never seen such a usage. People say "SMS". This is true in Germany as well as Hong Kong. "SMS" is also the term used by the mobile phone providers in their pamphlets, service contracts, etc.

(The German translation is "Kurznachricht", but people usually say "SMS". Like "Fernsprecher" vs. "Telephon". A German teacher of mine once wanted to make a sentence with "SMS". But she didn't know how to pluralize this word. She asked the class. Most students, including me, suggested "SMSen".)

Seán> It allows you to send short (usually <= 160 characters)
Seán> messages from one mobile phone to another. It is very
Seán> popular in Europe and Asia but it does not seem to be
Seán> popular in the USA.

Asia? Not sure. Since voice calls in Hong Kong are so cheap, people simply don't bother to type such messages. Making a call and telling the recipient the message verbally is often cheaper than sending an SMS. And you don't waste time typing the message, and you get immediate verbal acknowledgement from the recipient.

In Europe and Japan, it is quite popular, though. This is because an SMS costs much less than making a 1-minute voice call. (Japan doesn't use GSM. They have their home-brewed PHS system.)

--
Lee Sau Dan

E-mail: danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **[SMS in the US \[was Re: Letters with **three** cases?\]](#)**
◇ From: Tak To
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Tak To
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Paul J Kriha
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Dr. Des Small
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Seán O'Leathlóbhair
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Tommi Nieminen

• **References:**

- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Nigel Greenwood
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Peter T. Daniels
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Seán O'Leathlóbhair
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Nigel Greenwood
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Seán O'Leathlóbhair
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Lee Sau Dan
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Peter T. Daniels
- ◆ **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
◇ From: Seán O'Leathlóbhair

- Prev by Date: **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: Letters with **three** cases?](#)**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**