

Understanding SMS Language

For mobile phone users who are unused to writing like this themselves, reading a text message from someone who uses abbreviations and acronyms can be a difficult task. Even if you don't think you will ever write messages like this, understanding what others may send to you is obviously useful.

Here are 35 of the most common SMS abbreviations and acronyms to help demystify text-speak.

- **2** = To or Too
- **4** = For
- **B4** = Before
- **Y** = Why
- **R** = Are
- **UR** = You Are or Your
- **G2G** = Got To Go
- **2NITE** = Tonight
- **2MOR** = Tomorrow
- **AFAIK** = As Far As I Know
- **K** = Ok
- **THX** or **THNX** = Thanks
- **TWSS** = That's What She Said
- **TY** = Thank You
- **TXT** = Text
- **CU** = See You
- **LOL** = Laugh Out Loud
- **ATM** = At The Moment
- **EZ** = Easy
- **FWM** = F*** With Me
- **L8R** = Later
- **BF** = Boyfriend (also Best Friend)
- **GF** = Girlfriend
- **BTW** = By The Way
- **GR8** = Great
- **IDK** = I Don't Know
- **IMO** = In My Opinion
- **ISTG** = I Swear to God
- **JK** = Just Kidding
- **M8** = Mate
- **STR8** = Straight
- **H8** = Hate
- **MSG** = Message
- **OIC** = Oh, I See
- **OMG** = Oh My God
- **PLS** or **PLZ** = Please
- **SRY** = Sorry
- **YW** = You're Welcome
- **YWA** = You're Welcome Anyway
- **HML** = Hit my line or hate my life

Would you like to send an SMS in English? Here is a more comprehensive list with useful characters and their meanings:

- **&** - and
- **0** - nothing
- **2** - two, to, too
- **2DAY** - today
- **A** - a / an
- **B** - be
- **B4** - before
- **BC** - because
- **BF** - boyfriend
- **BK** - back
- **BRO** - brother
- **BT** - but
- **C** - see
- **D8** - date
- **DNR** - dinner
- **EZ** - easy
- **F8** - fate
- **GF** - girlfriend
- **GR8** - great
- **HOLS** - holidays

- *HV - have*
- *I - I, it*
- *Its - it is*
- *KDS - kids*
- *L8 - late*
- *L8R - later*
- *M8 - mate*
- *NE1 - anyone*
- *PLS - please*
- *PS - parents*
- *QT - cutie*
- *R - are*
- *SIS - sister*
- *SKOOL - school*
- *SMMR - summer*
- *U - you*
- *WR - were*
- *A3 - anyplace, anytime, anywhere*
- *ASAP - as soon as possible*
- *B4N - Bye for now*
- *BAU - business as usual*
- *BRB - I'll be right back.*
- *BTW - by the way*
- *CUL - see you later*
- *CWOT - complete waste of time*
- *FTF - face to face*
- *FYI - for your information*
- *GMTA - great minds think alike*
- *HAND - have a nice day*
- *HRU - how are you*
- *ICBW - it could be worse*
- *IDTS - I don't think so*
- *IMHO - in my humble opinion*
- *IYKWIM - if you know what I mean*

- *JK - just kidding*
- *KOTC - kiss on the cheek*
- *LOL - laughing out loud*
- *LSKOL - long slow kiss on the lips*
- *LTNS - long time no see*
- *Luv U - I love you.*
- *Luv U2 - I love you too.*
- *MON - the middle of nowhere*
- *MTE - my thoughts exactly*
- *MU - I miss you.*
- *MUSM - I miss you so much.*
- *NP - no problem*
- *OIC - oh, I see*
- *PC&QT - peace and quiet*
- *PCM - please call me*
- *ROTFL - rolling on the floor laughing*
- *RUOK - are you ok?*
- *THNQ - thank you*
- *U4E - you forever*
- *UROK - you are okay*
- *WUCIWUG - what you see is what you get*
- *WYSIWYG - what you see is what you get*
- *XLNT - excellent*
- *:-) smiling*
- *:-* kiss*
- *:-) very happy*
- *:-0 shocked*
- *:") blushing*
- *:-| :-| deja vu*
- *(_x_) kiss my arse/butt*
- *<:3)~ mouse*
- *:@) pig*


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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ :[(-) <i>tears of laughter</i> ▪ :-P <i>stick tongue out</i> ▪ :-(*) <i>you make me sick</i> ▪ x-(<i>you are mad</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ :-" <i>whistling</i> ▪ ;-) <i>wink</i> ▪ :-@ <i>screaming</i> ▪ O:-) <i>saintly</i> |
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Despite how they have been written here, abbreviations and acronyms in SMS messages are usually typed in lower case. Upper-case letters, much like basic punctuation, are often ignored altogether in SMS messages. The exception to this is when shouting in a message. Typing a message all in capitals, or with specific words in capitals, is usually taken to mean that you are shouting the message.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of all of the acronyms and abbreviations used when sending SMS messages. There are literally hundreds more to be discovered, although some are less useful than others and many will never need to be used in normal text conversations. Even using a few of the better known [SMS](#) abbreviations can make sending text messages quicker and easier, but there really is nothing wrong with using the correct spelling and grammar when texting.

Laughing Out Loud

[LOL](#), the acronym for Laughing Out Loud, is probably one of the most common Internet and SMS slang terms. Originally, in Internet Relay Chat and other Instant Messaging services, LOL meant Lots Of Love or Lots Of Luck, as well as Laughing Out Loud. Nowadays, in SMS messages at least, it almost always means the latter rather than either of the former phrases. The term is so much a part of modern culture that it now appears in the Oxford English Dictionary, as well as numerous other dictionaries, both online and in print. Amazingly, you may even hear people saying "lol" in face-to-face conversations.

How good is your SMS English? Try to read the text below. Move the mouse pointer over the  sign to see the answers.

- My smmr hols wr CWOT. 
- B4, we usd 2 go 2 NY 2C my bro, his GF & thr 3 :-@ kds FTF. 
- ILNY, its gr8. 
- Bt my Ps wr so {:-/ BC o 9/11 tht they dcdd 2 stay in SCO & spnd 2wks up N. 
- Up N, WUCIWUG - 0. 
- I ws vvv brd in MON. 
- 0 bt baas & ^^^^ 
- AAR8, my Ps wr :-) - they sd ICBW, & tht they wr ha-p 4 the pc&qt... 
- IDTS!! 
- I wntd 2 go hm ASAP, 2C my M8s again. 
- 2day, I cam bk 2 skool. 

- *I feel v O:-) BC I hv dn all my hm wrk.* 🗨️
- *Now its BAU ...* 🗨️