

Internet Acronyms (LOL)

The use of acronyms has exploded when it comes to online communication.

You could be forgiven for thinking it's not English anymore.

Some acronyms are more common, and some more obvious than others. Others cause confusion for the older generation.

For example, the online acronym 'LOL' is commonly known to represent 'Laugh Out Loud'; however, some may interpret it as 'Lots of Love'. It is therefore important to contextualise the use of an acronym.

Children, and more so teens, are regular users of acronyms due to the large volume of messages travelling back and forth. It's quicker.

Acronyms can be used with any program where users send and receive messages, such as the following:

- Email (not as common)
- Text messaging
- Messaging programs (e.g., Kik, WhatsApp, Facebook Chat, iMessage)
- Social networking programs (Instagram and Twitter)
- Online gaming (All games that have text-based communication functionality)

Now is the time to familiarise yourself with this form of communication and become aware of the basics. This gives you a resource to learn how to identify and interpret acronyms you come across in online communications with your children and others.

It is impossible to know all acronyms that are used in online communication, so below are links to sites with a comprehensive list of acronyms and their meanings:

<http://www.netlingo.com/acronyms.php>

<http://www.gaarde.org/acronyms/>

Warning – short version – adult content

The table over the page makes reference to unpleasant words and phrases. Not suitable for young readers. For adult attention only.



And now...for the list compiled by a 14-year-old girl who uses several online chat sites. Be prepared! Some of these are awful.

Brb - be right back	Tc - take care	Tbh - to be honest
Cw - cute with	Kb - kick back	Idk - I don't know
Ily - I love you	Ilysm - I love you so much	Ihy - I hate you
Idek - I don't even know	Kys - kill yourself	Kms - kill myself
Fml - f*** my life	Lol- laugh out loud or lots of love	Tgif - thank God it's Friday
Fb - Facebook	Idc - I don't care	Bc - because
Wth - what the hell	Wtf - what the f***	Jc - Jesus Christ
Jk - joke	Omg - oh my god	Ffs - for f*** sake
Pls - please	w/ - with	ft - featuring
wuu2- what you up to	wud/wyd - what you doing	hru - how are you
lmao - laugh my ass off	nm - nothing much	rn - right now
pmo - p*ssing me off	af -- as f***	stfu - stuff you
mofo - mother f*****	nike - just do it	Skuxx - cool
Mint - good	Fresh - clean cut	FOMO - Fear of Missing Out

Keyboard worrier - someone who can talk the talk over the Internet but can't do anything in real life