

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:

- Email (not as common)
- Text messaging
- Messaging programs (eg.Kik, Wats App, Facebook Chat, i Message)
- Social networking programs (Instagram, Tik Tok and Snapchat)
- Online gaming (All games that have text based communication functionality)

Now is the time to familiarise ourselves 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>