

## TEXT MESSAGING AND SHORTENINGS.

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Text messaging is a new way to communicate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Everyone in the English speaking countries, men and women, young and old use it, but especially the young, and it has become the fastest growing service on every network. Why? Perhaps it is because it's discreet. You can set your phone to vibrate rather than ring when you receive a message and don't cause a nuisance to others when you reply. Text messaging has replaced passing notes in class as a way of making plans. It's cheaper than calling and does not take as much time. It is an international service, so that you can communicate when you are abroad without having to buy extra cards of adaptations for your phone and all at local rates.

This is a real communication revolution and it is also great fun. You can learn and contribute to a whole new language, created by the users. Surveys show that men find it especially tempting to express their feelings by text messaging, especially those tricky ones like "I love you" and "I'm sorry". Young men use it to finalize infinitely flexible plans and text messaging is a great way to introduce yourself to a stranger at a noisy club or party. Members of the Muslim community in the UK have even used it to call the faithful to prayer. Text messaging has its own grammar and "netiquette" developed from e-mail and Internet chat rooms, so capital letters are not used – it is classed as shouting and considered very rude. That is unless it stands for a new word or a double letter.

WAN2TLK? contains all the information you need to start chatting, with over 1500 abbreviations and emoticons and their meanings. For using text messaging just go to the message option "write messages" on your phone and start to type. It will guess what you are trying to say, or you can press the option menu and insert words, numbers or symbols – then send. Special phrase books will make you an expert in no time and you can use it for Internet communication too.

Chatting to old friends and making new ones on mobile phone or on the Internet can be the best and cheapest way to make plans, have a row, start a romance or end an affair and it's discreet. But messages can be open to misinterpretation when the person you are talking to can't see you or hear the inflection in your voice. The mood of a message is one of the hardest things to convey. "Emotions" are a shorthand way of explaining the meaning. Made from punctuation marks on your keypad, they take up very little space, can be keyed in seconds and may make the difference between a lasting friendship and social disaster. The basic smiley face is just a colon, a dash and a close bracket and yet when you rotate it through 90° it becomes a smile. Most emoticons rotate through 90° although some are front facing. The sub-text of your words, acronyms or abbreviations will become crystal clear to anyone reading them if you punctuate your message with emoticons, whenever and wherever you feel like it.

Emoticons can also be used just for fun, and a lot of creativity goes into making pictures and jokes using the minimum number of characters. The examples below are the basic emoticons:

<b>Emoticon</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
;-) ;) :->	winking happy faces
:( :( :-<	sad, disappointed faces
:-P :-p	faces with tongues stuck out at you
:-]	"I'm very jolly"
:-D	"I'm very happy"

>:-)	“A devil with a grin”
0:-)	“An angel with a halo”
:~)	“I’m joking”
:~\	“I’m confused”
:-Q	“I have no idea what you are talking about”
:-@	“I’m shocking / screaming”
:-0	“I’m surprised”
:->>	A huge smile

**Abbreviations and acronyms for fast talkers:**

AAM	“As a matter of fact”
AFAIK	“As far as I know”
ATB	“All the best”
Bwd	“Backward”
B4	“Before”
C	“See”
CU	“See you”
CUL8R	“See you later”
CW2CU	“Can’t wait to see you”
EOL	“End of lecture”
Gr8	“Great”
HAND	“Have a nice day”
H8	“Hate”
IDK	“I don’t know”
ILUVU	“I love you”
ILUVUMED	“I love you more each day”
KIT	“Keep in touch”
L8	“Late”
Luv	“Love”
LOL	“Lots of luck”
Msg	“Message”
MYOB	“Mind your business”
NE	“Any”
NE1	“Anyone”
NRN	“No reply necessary”
OIC	“Oh, I see”
OTOH	“On the other hand”
PAL	“Parents are listening”
R	“Are”
ROFL	“Rolling on the floor laughing”
RUOK?	“Are you OK?”
SOHF	“Sense of humor failure”
SWALK	“Sealed with a loving kiss”
Thx	“Thanks”
TIA	“Thanks in advance”
X	“Kiss”
Xoxoxoxo	Hugs and kisses
<G>	Grinning
<J>	Joking
<L>	Laughing

<S>	Smiling
<Y>	Yarning

MAKTWrldGoRnd	“Make the world go round”
ALOn?	“Alone?”
Brn2BWld	“Born to be wild”
ChOsME	“Choose me”
DncW/ME	“Dance with me”
KEpMEinMnd	“Keep me in mind”
MadAbtU	“Mad about you”
NETimNEPIAc	“Any time, any place”
NoLmt	“No limit”
RSVP	“Answer, please”
YngFrESngl	“Young free and single”
URSchA ★	“You a such a star”

The popularity of such shortenings in the English-speaking countries is so great that even some texts of classic literary are transferred to the language of SMS-messages to help students and pupils. In particular, some works of Shakespeare have been compressed with using the rules of writing SMS-messages to be sent to mobile phones. For example, Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be?" now looks like this: **2b? Ntb? =?** ("To be or not to be? That is a question").

The key passages, which can be quoted at exams or seminars, are selected from the classical works. The poem of John Milton "Lost paradise", "Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer, Jane Austen's "Pride and prejudice" have been translated to the language of text messages.

Short text messages have become an integral part of mass culture, phenomenon, uniting people. People have always dreamed to create a common language that would unite all nations and peoples. Today SMS-language plays this role. But the language of shortenings has positive and negative aspects: on the one hand it allows to transmit much information in a short period of time and using a minimum number of words, but on the other hand, this language contributes to reducing the level of literacy among teenagers because of the rough lexical violations. Therefore, SMS-language needs theoretical understanding on the part of philologists, in order to reduce its negative influence on the traditional language and derive maximum benefit from its use.