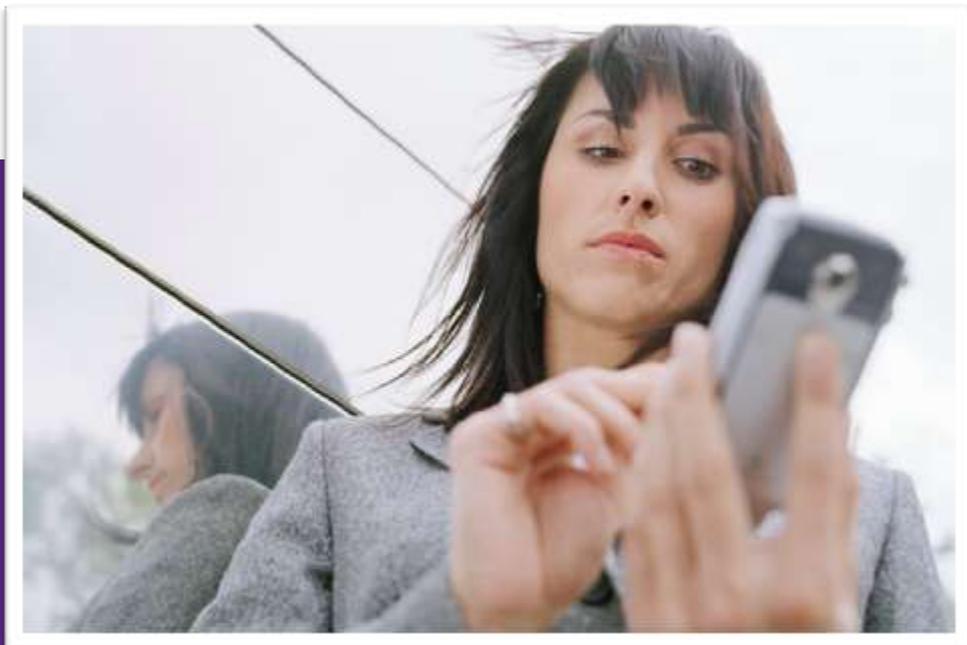




**BLOOMSBURY** INTERNATIONAL

# Text Message Abbreviations

Learn how to use text message abbreviations  
and chat acronyms



## Text Message Abbreviations and Chat Acronyms

So, all of your [English language classes](#) are *paying off*<sup>1</sup> and you're finally *getting the hang of*<sup>2</sup> speaking English. Then you start sending text messages and having online chat conversations with your friends in English and you discover a whole new language – abbreviations and acronyms!

<sup>1</sup> If something you have done pays off, it is successful

<sup>2</sup> to learn how to do something, especially if it is not obvious or simple

### What are Abbreviations and Acronyms?

An abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase (e.g. TV is an abbreviation of television).

An acronym is when you take the first letter of each word (or most words) in a phrase and put them together to make an abbreviation (e.g. TGIF is an acronym for Thank God It's Friday).



## Why do people use Abbreviations and Acronyms?

Abbreviations and acronyms are used a lot in chat conversations and text messages as a way to speed up conversations, get points across quickly and type less when you're in a rush. Now, with [Twitter](#)'s limited characters in every Tweet, abbreviations are becoming more popular than ever!

## Why should you learn text message abbreviations?

I am a native English speaker and it is often difficult for me to understand some of the abbreviations my friends include in their messages (don't tell anyone but I sometimes have to look up the meanings online!), so I can imagine that if you are an [English language student](#), it must be impossible!

Sometimes it can be very embarrassing if you misunderstand an abbreviation or use one in the wrong way. Check out this mum's embarrassing moment when she used LOL in the wrong way!!



Below are 40 of the most common abbreviations used – try to learn some of them so you can impress your friends (or at least understand the messages you receive!)

### Top 40 text and chat abbreviations

LOL	Laughing Out Loud
BRB	Be Right Back
BBL	Be Back Later
ASAP	As Soon As Possible
B4	Before
B4N	Bye For Now
BTW	By The Way
B/C	Because
C U L8R	See You Later
Def	Definitely
tmrw	Tomorrow
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
F2F	Face To Face
GF	Girlfriend
BF	Boyfriend
BFF	Best Friend Forever
AML	All My Love
GTG / G2G	Got To Go
GR8	Great

IDK	I Don't Know
IDC	I Don't Care
ILY / ILU	I Love You
JK	Just Kidding
K	OK
LMK	Let Me Know
THX	Thanks
PLS	Please
TTYL	Talk To You Later
TMI	Too Much Information
CYE	Check Your Email
FYI	For Your Information
IMHO	In My Honest Opinion
ROFL	Rolling On the Floor Laughing
BION	Believe It Or Not
BRT	Be Right There
Y	Why?
PCM	Please Call Me
IYKWIM	If You Know What I Mean
WYSIWYG	What You See Is What You Get
XOXO	Hugs and Kisses

As you can see, some meanings are quite obvious but others are impossible to work out unless you've learnt them!

**Good luck!**

## Text Message Abbreviations – Exercise

Can you work out the meaning of this text message conversation between 2 friends?

Sam: Jen RU coming to the party tmrw?

Jen: Yeah. Y?

Sam: GR8. B/C I want U2B my GF

Jen: I thought you liked my BFF

Sam: No I like U

Jen: I have a BF

Sam: IDC. IMHO he's an idiot

Jen: BION I like him

Sam: I want you. IYKWIM

Jen: TMI. Lets talk F2F tmrw

Sam: I've never felt like this B4. ILU

Jen: PCM now

Sam: Haha JK. U believed me? ROFL. I don't like you!

Jen: UR def not funny!

Sam: LOL. K CU tmrw. ETA?

Jen: IDK. 9 I guess

Sam: LMK

Jen: GTG TTYL

Sam: BFN XOXO



Sam: Jen, are you coming to the party tomorrow? - Jen: Yeah. Why? - Sam: Great. Because I want you to be my girlfriend - Jen: I thought you liked my Best Friend Forever - Sam: No I like you - Jen: I have a boyfriend - Sam: I don't care. In my honest opinion he's an idiot - Jen: Believe it or not I like him - Sam: I want you. If you know what I mean - Jen: Too much information. Let's talk face to face tomorrow - Sam: I've never felt like this before. I love you - Jen: Please call me now - Sam: Haha just kidding. You believed me? Rolling in the floor laughing. I don't like you! - Jen: You are definitely not funny! - Sam: Laughing out loud. OK see you tomorrow. Estimated time of arrival? - Jen: I don't know. 9pm I guess - Sam: Let me know - Jen: Got to go. Talk to you later - Sam: Bye for now. Hugs and kisses

**Answers:**