

TXTING



A common way of modern communication is text messaging, which means sending an SMS (Short Message Service) message. On average, 13 - 17 year olds send 1742 text messages each month. That's about 57 text messages per day.

Of course, people have learned ways of shortening words. Let's see some examples:

TAKING OUT THE VOWELS

A simple method of shortening words is to take out all the vowels. TXT would be the abbreviation of TEXT.

TAKING OUT APOSTROPHES AND DASHES

The word 'E-MAIL' does not need a dash in it for people to understand what it means. Just putting 'EMAIL' is enough. Words like 'I'M' can be shortened to 'IM', and words like 'DON'T' can be shortened to 'DONT'.

REPLACING WORDS WITH SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS

Instead of writing the word 'FOR' you would write '4'. Also, whenever the letters 'FOR' appear as part of another word like in the word 'FORGIVE', you would substitute the number for the word and write '4GIVE'. These words have to be replaced by numbers or symbols which are pronounced in the same way.

“AND” becomes &, “AT” becomes @, “ATE” becomes 8, “TO or TOO” become 2 and “PERCENT” becomes the symbol %.

REMOVING THE FINAL “E” AND CHANGING “O” TO “U”

In words such as “LOVE” the final “e” would disappear and this word would become “LOV”. But it would have to be changed into “LUV” to be pronounced in the same way.

There are other words which do not follow the rule, they are simply used by everybody. Let's see some of them:

See you later	CUL8R
See you	CU
Excuse me	XME
People	PPL
because	BCZ
straight	Str8
Great	GR8
Laughs out loud	LOL
Please write back	PWB
In my opinion	IMO
I'm sorry	IMS
You too	U2
sleeping	ZZZ
tonight	2NITE
Well done	WD
Thank you	TY
Thanks	THX
Please	PLZ
Kiss	X
What the f**k	WTF
Kiss my ass	KMA
Know	KNO
I don't know	IDK
Love you for ever	LY4E
Talk to you later	TLK2UL8R
asap	AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
message	MSG
By the way	BTW
tomorrow	2MRW
tonight	2NITE
today	2DY
Bye	BY

Quiet	QT
were	WR
was	WZ
sorry	SRY
mate	M8
your	UR
Are you	RU

EMOTICONS

An **emoticon** is a pictorial representation of a facial expression using punctuation marks, numbers and letters, usually written to express a person's feelings or mood.

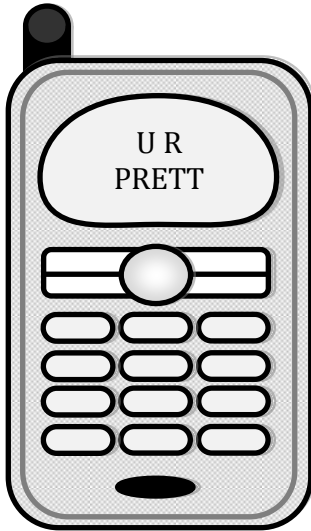
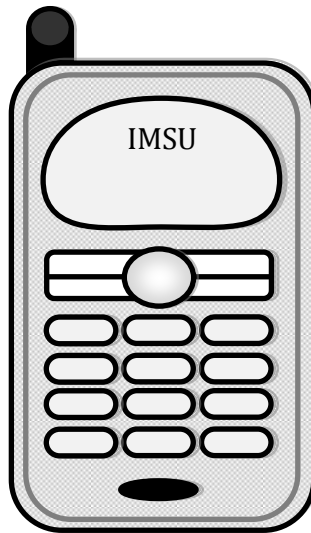
Let`s see some examples of the most common emoticons.

EMOTICON	MEANING
:~)	HAPPY
:-//	ANGRY
:~))	VERY HAPPY
%~)	CONFUSED
:-&	TONGUE TIED
:-(SAD
0:~)	SAINTLY
:-D	LAUGHING
:~(CRYING
:-O	SURPRISED / SHOCKED
:-@	SCREAMING
:-*	KISS
:@)	PIG
*:~)	CLOWN

This is a text message written by an USA teenager. Would you dare "decipher" it?

My smmr hols... CWOT? B4, we usd 2 go 2 NY 2 C my bro, his GF & thr 3 :- kds Bt my Ps wr so (:-/ BC o 9/11 tht they decid 2 stay hom, WUCIWUG - - O. I ws vvv brd. 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 o:~) agn. CU soon BB4N

Now write the following text messages in "correct" English:



Key

My summer holidays... See what? Before, we used to go to New York to see my brother, his girlfriend and their three kids. But my parents were so worried because of 9th September that they decided to stay home!!!! What you see is what you get! I was very very very bored . My parents were happy – they said it could be worse and that they were happy for the peace and quiet. Idiots!!! I wanted to go home as soon as possible to see my mates again. Today I came back to school. I feel very happy. See you soon. Bye bye for now.

**MOBILE 1: You are great!
MOBILE 2: I miss you
MOBILE 3: I do love you.
MOBILE 4: You are pretty.
MOBILE 5: You are the one.
MOBILE 6: Addicted to love.
MOBILE 7: Waiting for you.
MOBILE 8: See you later.
MOBILE 9: Great to see you!**