

Are the Acronyms Your Child Uses Online A Flag?



The Internet has truly become an integral aspect of society. We use it every day, from searching for the nearest Starbucks to applying for law school. One thing that has become particularly popular among its younger users is “Internet slang,” also known as acronyms. These shorthand phrases, used globally by teens both online and while texting, are generally just a simpler way of writing things out. However, there is a dark side of which all parents should be aware.

Acronyms have become much more complex and teens are now using them for just about anything. Instead of the usual “LOL” (Laughing Out Loud) and “OMG” (Oh My God), there are now phrases like “WTTP” (Want To Trade Pictures?). This shift is of growing concern for parents everywhere. It is not to say that parents now need to be “helicopter parents,” overly protective and critical of their children’s every move, but these acronyms are something worth knowing.

Before diving right into the intricate world of acronyms, here is a list of some of the basic Internet 101 phrases:

1. **BRB**- Be Right Back
2. **GR8**- Great
3. **ILY**- I Love You
4. **JK**- Just Kidding
5. **POV**- Point of View
6. **IDK**- I Don’t Know
7. **TMI**- Too Much Information
8. **TTYL**- Talk To You Later
9. **G2G/GTG**- Got To Go
10. **THX/TY**- Thanks/Thank You
11. **NP**- No Problem **BFF**- Best Friends Forever
12. **IDC**- I Don’t Care
13. **LYLAS**- Love You Like A Sister
14. **NVM**- Never mind
15. **MYT**- Meet You There
16. **NBD**- No Big Deal
17. **BAE**- Babe/Before Anyone Else
18. **HMU**- Hit Me Up
19. **ATM**- At The Moment

Now, after reading the following lists, you will be more cautious about what your teen is talking about and to whom they are talking.

1. **420-** Marijuana
2. **DOC-** Drug Of Choice
3. **CICYHW-** Can I Copy Your Homework?
4. **TWD-** Texting While Driving
5. **WTPA-** Where's The Party At?
6. **IWSN-** I Want Sex Now
7. **53X-** Sex
8. **MIRL-** Meet In Real Life
9. **TDTM-** Talk Dirty To Me
10. **8-** Oral Sex
11. **IPN-** I'm posting naked
12. **GYPO-** Get Your Pants Off
13. **CU46-** See You For Sex
14. **GNOC-** Get Naked On Camera
15. **NSFW-** Not Safe For Work
16. **ASL-** (What is your) Age, Sex, Location?
17. **FWB-** Friends With Benefits
18. **PIR-** Parent In Room
19. **9-** Parent Watching
20. **99-** Parenting Gone
21. **POS-** Parent Over Shoulder
22. **303-** Mom

These red flags are just a few of many. These acronyms are the top of a very slippery slope that have the possibility to lead to potential harms, including sexting, risky sexual behaviors, stalking, and even rape. If you notice your children or any of their friends using any unusual language, including examples from above, be aware and talk to them about it. Although these conversations may be hard and awkward, they are necessary and they do help to protect and inform children.

Source: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/are-the-acronyms-your-child-uses-online-a-red-flag/>