



Colloquial English

Lesson code: 11EQ-B6CB-N6FC

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

American English

1 Text speak

Acronyms are combinations of letters and numbers that stand for certain words or phrases. They are often used in instant messages, informal emails, and text messages. Which of the common acronyms below do you know?

BTW
OMGLOL
ThxIMO
asapCU
plsF2F
RUL8er
sth

Now complete the following text messages with suitable acronyms:

SMS 1

OK, _____ at 2pm!

SMS 2

Can't talk right now. Call me _____

SMS 3

_____ send me that report _____. Need it today!

SMS 4

_____ ! Guess who I saw today?

SMS 5

Don't want to talk about it on phone. Let's meet _____ .

SMS 6

_____ for the advice. Was very helpful!

SMS 7

Nice joke! _____ .



What do you notice about the use of subject pronouns (I, you, it, we, etc.) and articles (a, the) in the text messages?

In pairs, study the conversation between two roommates and transform it into a text message chat using appropriate acronyms and omitting unnecessary grammar.

- Judith:** Hi Carlos, are you at home yet?
Carlos: No. I'm still at the restaurant with my friends. I'll be back later. Is it anything important?
Judith: I just wanted to say that I got the job!
Carlos: Oh my God, that's great! Now you can buy me a new TV for my room.
Judith: Ha ha ha. By the way, how is the new Italian restaurant?
Carlos: Really good. In my opinion, it's the best restaurant in town.
Judith: Is it that good? I must try it out someday. See you.
Carlos: See you. And later you will tell me all about your job interview in person.

2 Informal words

In pairs, study the sentences below and try to guess or explain the meaning of the underlined colloquial words. Check your answers with a dictionary or ask your teacher.

1. You must be completely nuts to go swimming in the middle of winter!
2. Josephine is such a lightweight. After 2 glasses of wine, she is already drunk.
3. This computer is a piece of crap! It keeps shutting down by itself.
4. Luke is such a geek. He spends all day reading comic books, playing video games, and writing computer programs.
5. I'm having a party at my place tonight.
6. I think I'll stay in this evening. I'm too beat to go out.
7. You can see that they were trying hard to make the movie dramatic, but in the end it was just another cheesy love story.
8. After drinking half a bottle of vodka, Robert was completely wasted.
9. That was such a dumb idea to insult the director during your job interview.
10. This is a really shady part of town. I don't feel comfortable here.

In pairs, discuss any the following questions:

1. Have you ever been in a shady part of town? Talk about the experience.
2. Do you know anyone who you would describe as a 'geek'? Why?
3. What movies or music would you describe as cheesy?
4. Do you have any friends who are lightweights? How easily do they become wasted?



3 Colloquial exclamations

Words and phrases such as 'Cheers!', 'Oh my God!', 'Poor you!' etc. are called *exclamations*. They are used to express a sudden emotion such as excitement, fear, surprise, etc. Match the colloquial exclamations on the left with their uses on the right:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Whoa! | a. a fairly rude expression used to tell someone to go away |
| 2. Yeah, right! | b. a fairly rude expression used when something causes you anger, annoyance, or surprise |
| 3. Phew! | c. a milder form of 'My God!' |
| 4. What the heck! | d. a word used to express surprise |
| 5. Big deal! | e. said sarcastically when someone says something that you think isn't important or special |
| 6. My word! | f. used to express relief, when you are happy that something bad did not or will not happen |
| 7. Get lost! | g. used to say that something is good or great |
| 8. Cool. | h. used when someone says something that you do not believe |

In pairs, take turns to read and respond to each of the statements below using a colloquial exclamation from above. Try to use a different expression every time.

1. "I ran 10 miles this morning!"
2. "There's no homework today."
3. "You are an idiot."
4. "I ran 100 meters today!"
5. "I was stuck in traffic for 3 hours yesterday."
6. "I nearly got hit by a truck crossing the street this morning."



1 Text speak

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. BTW (By The Way) | 2. LOL (Laughing Out Loud) |
| 3. IMO (In My Opinion) | 4. CU (See You) |
| 5. F2F (Face to Face) | 6. L8er (Later) |
| 7. OMG (Oh My God) | 8. thx (Thanks) |
| 9. asap (As soon as possible) | 10. pls (please) |
| 11. RU (Are you?) | 12. sth (something) |
1. CU 2. L8er 3. Pls;asap 4. OMG 5. F2F 6. Thx 7. LOL

Subject pronouns and articles are often omitted from quick notes, text/chat messages, etc.

Possible answer:

- Judith: Hi Carlos, RU home yet?
 Carlos: No. Still at restaurant with friends. Be back L8er. Anything important?
 Judith: Just wanted to say - got job!
 Carlos: OMG, that's great! Now U can buy me new TV for my room.
 Judith: LOL. BTW, how's new Italian restaurant?
 Carlos: Really good. IMO, best restaurant in town.
 Judith: That good? Must try out someday. CU.
 Carlos: CU. And l8er u will tell me all about job interview F2F.

2 Informal words

1. crazy, foolish
2. a person who gets drunk very easily
3. junk, something of bad quality
4. a person who has technical skills and knowledge, but lacks social skills
5. home
6. tired
7. trying to be good in an unoriginal, obvious way
8. very drunk
9. stupid
10. appearing to be dangerous

3 Colloquial exclamations

1. d 2. h 3. f 4. b 5. e 6. c 7. a 8. g

Possible answers:

1. Yeah, right!
2. Phew!/Cool.
3. Get lost!
4. Big deal!
5. My word!/Whoa!
6. What the heck!/Whoa!

