



Mini-lesson 50: Internet & Text Abbreviations

Objective:

To help learners understand and use common internet and text message abbreviations (acronyms and initialisms) in informal English communication.

Explanation:

Internet and texting abbreviations are **shortened forms of words or phrases** commonly used in chats, social media, and text messages. They help **save time and space** when typing.

They are often written in **all capital letters**, but not always. Some represent **phrases**, while others are **short forms of words**.

Common Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning	Example Sentence
LOL	Laughing Out Loud	That meme was so funny, LOL!
BRB	Be Right Back	Gotta grab a snack. BRB!
OMG	Oh My God	OMG, I can't believe you did that!
IDK	I Don't Know	IDK what time the movie starts.
BTW	By The Way	BTW, did you finish the homework?
TMI	Too Much Information	Ew! TMI, I didn't need to know that!
IMO / IMHO	In My Opinion / In My Humble Opinion	IMO, that show is overrated.
ROFL	Rolling On the Floor Laughing	That joke had me ROFL.
BFF	Best Friends Forever	She's my BFF from high school.
THX / TY	Thanks / Thank You	THX for the help earlier!
NP	No Problem	TY! – NP! 😊
DM	Direct Message	Just DM me the details.



Abbreviation	Meaning	Example Sentence
TTYL	Talk To You Later	I'm heading out now. TTYL!
LMAO	Laughing My A** Off	That video had me LMAO.
FOMO	Fear Of Missing Out	I didn't go, but now I have FOMO.
AFK	Away From Keyboard	AFK for 10 mins.
ASAP	As Soon As Possible	Send me that file ASAP.
SMH	Shaking My Head	SMH... some people just don't get it.
NVM	Never Mind	NVM, I figured it out.
TL;DR	Too Long; Didn't Read	TL;DR: She said no.



Notes:

- These abbreviations are typically used in **informal** writing (texts, DMs, comments).
- Avoid using them in **formal writing** (emails to your boss, academic writing, etc.).
- Some have **mild profanity** (e.g., LMAO), so use with caution depending on the audience.



Practice 1 – Match the abbreviation to its meaning:

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|----------|--|
| A. BRB | 1. I don't have time to read this whole thing. |
| B. SMH | 2. I need to step away for a moment. |
| C. TL;DR | 3. That was extremely funny. |
| D. TTYL | 4. I'll talk to you later. |
| E. ROFL | 5. I'm disappointed or frustrated. |
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Practice 2 – Rewrite the text message using full words:

1. LOL, IDK what she meant.
 2. BRB. Gonna grab lunch.
 3. OMG, TY for the gift!
 4. TMI, dude.
 5. SMH... that was ridiculous.
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Practice 3 – Fill in the blank with a suitable abbreviation:

1. Can you send that file _____? I need it quickly.
 2. That joke was hilarious. I was _____!
 3. She's my _____; we do everything together.
 4. _____ me if you want to hang out tonight.
 5. I'm gonna be _____—need to help my brother.
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✓ Answer Key

Practice 1 – Matching:

- A-2 → BRB = I need to step away
B-5 → SMH = I'm disappointed/frustrated
C-1 → TL;DR = Too long; didn't read
D-4 → TTYL = Talk to you later
E-3 → ROFL = Very funny

Practice 2 – Rewrites:

1. Laughing out loud, I don't know what she meant.
2. Be right back. Going to grab lunch.
3. Oh my God, thank you for the gift!
4. Too much information, dude.
5. Shaking my head... that was ridiculous.

Practice 3 – Fill in the blanks:

1. ASAP
2. ROFL
3. BFF
4. DM
5. AFK