

INTERNET LINGO AND TERMS

GIF, RSVP or even ASAP may sound familiar; however as computers have transformed communications a new dialect has emerged: Internet lingo. Acronyms or character symbols called Emoticons (mixing symbols to express emotions or moods) enable teens to communicate with others in a few keystrokes.

While often just a convenient and quick means of communication, many teens use these acronyms and symbols to warn their friends when parents might be present and even to discuss drug use in a code that parents can't decipher.

Instant messages, blog entries and text messages often look like Sanskrit to parents, but decoding this lingo used in digital communications is an important monitoring skill that should not be overlooked. Here is a quick guide to help you translate what teens are saying online and in their cell phone text messages. Keep in mind that, as with street names for drugs, these symbols and acronyms are subject to frequent change, particularly when those who use them suspect that others have figured out what they mean.

Lingo to Warn of Parental Monitoring⁽¹⁾

- POS Parent Over Shoulder
- PIR Parent In Room
- P911 Parent Alert
- PAW Parents Are Watching
- PAL Parents Are Listening
- KPC Keeping Parents Clueless

Internet Lingo of Social or Sexual Nature⁽²⁾

- WYCM Will You Call Me?
- ASL Age/Sex/Location
- MorF Male or Female
- KFY Kiss For You
- MOOS Member(s) Of the Opposite Sex
- ADR Address
- LMIRL Let's Meet In Real Life
- HAK Hugs And Kisses
- ILU or ILY I Love You
- KOTL Kiss On The Lips
- SMIM Send Me an Instant Message

SMEM Send Me an E-Mail
WUF Where Are You From?
WYRN What's Your Real Name?

Emoticons⁽³⁾

;) Winking
:*(Crying
#-) Wiped out, partied all night
%*} Inebriated
%\ Hangover
8-# Death
:-d~ Heavy smoker
:->< Puckered up to kiss
:/i No smoking

Drug Lingo

Similar to Internet lingo, drug nomenclature can be cryptic. Parents can monitor for drug use by learning popular drug lingo and asking questions. A few examples of popular drug lingo are listed below; a database containing more than 2,300 street terms is also available.

Marijuana Lingo

Pot Marijuana
Weed Marijuana
Bud Marijuana
Kind Bud An expensive and potent strain of marijuana
Mary Jane Marijuana
Ganja Marijuana
Blunt Marijuana rolled into a Philly Blunt or similar type of cigar
Bong A large water filtered pipe for smoking marijuana

Prescription Drug

- Pharming Raiding medical cabinets to trade and consume prescription drugs to get high
- Robotripping Drinking cough medicine to get high (comes from the brand name Robotussin)
- Lean Drinking prescription cough syrup mixed with painkillers and soda
 - O Oxycontin
- Tweaking High on amphetamines
 - Blue Snorting Adderall or Ritalin
 - Boogers

1. "The NetLingo Top 20 Internet Acronyms Every Parent Needs to Know." NetLingo.com; 2006.
2. Ibid.
3. "Emoticons." Computeruser.com; 2006.