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**Level 5 – 18th November 2024**

## Text abbreviations make you look less sincere

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-5.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-5.html>

A study says people who abbreviate text messages might seem insincere. They also might be less likely to receive replies. Researchers from the USA and Canada analyzed 5,000 text messages to look at the impact of abbreviations. Test participants rated their perceived sincerity of messages with and without abbreviations. They also assessed their likelihood of replying. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere and recipients less likely to write back." They said abbreviations show a lower level of effort from the sender.

Abbreviations in text and social media comments are now a distinct genre of writing. The first text message was sent in 1992. A system of abbreviated text then developed. This is now largely understood and widely used. Many abbreviations are in dictionaries. Shortened terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are commonplace in text messages. Of course, these mean "for your information," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". A researcher believed abbreviations "would convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised that they elicited negative perceptions.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/nov/14/using-abbreviations-in-messages-comes-across-as-idrc-study-finds>  
<https://scitechdaily.com/the-common-texting-habit-that-could-be-undermining-your-sincerity/>  
<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2024/11/texting-abbreviations-insincere>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. people who abbreviate           | a. without abbreviations |
| 2. They also might be less         | b. of abbreviations      |
| 3. look at the impact              | c. from the sender       |
| 4. Test                            | d. of messages           |
| 5. their perceived sincerity       | e. likely to             |
| 6. with and                        | f. less sincere          |
| 7. Abbreviations make senders seem | g. participants          |
| 8. show a lower level of effort    | h. text messages         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Abbreviations in text and social   | a. then developed  |
| 2. a distinct genre                   | b. of closeness    |
| 3. A system of abbreviated text       | c. in dictionaries |
| 4. This is now largely understood and | d. perceptions     |
| 5. Many abbreviations are             | e. of writing      |
| 6. in my humble                       | f. widely used     |
| 7. convey an informal sense           | g. opinion         |
| 8. they elicited negative             | h. media comments  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-5.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ who abbreviate text messages might seem insincere. They also might (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to receive replies. Researchers from the USA and Canada analyzed 5,000 text messages to look at (3) \_\_\_\_\_ abbreviations. Test participants rated their perceived sincerity of messages with and without abbreviations. They (4) \_\_\_\_\_ likelihood of replying. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to write back." They said abbreviations show a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ effort from the sender.

Abbreviations in text and social media comments are now a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ writing. The first text message was sent in 1992. A system of abbreviated (8) \_\_\_\_\_. This is now largely understood and widely used. Many abbreviations (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Shortened terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are commonplace in text messages. Of course, these mean "(10) \_\_\_\_\_," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". A researcher believed abbreviations "would (11) \_\_\_\_\_ sense of closeness". He was surprised that they (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-5.html>

A study says people who abbreviate text messages might seem insincere. They also might be less likely to receive replies. Researchers from the US and Canada analyzed 5,000 text messages to look at the impact of abbreviations. Test participants rated their perceived sincerity of messages with and without abbreviations. They also assessed their likelihood of replying. The researchers said: "Abbreviations makes senders seem less sincere and recipients less likely to write back." They said abbreviations show a lower level of effort from the sender. Abbreviations in text and social media comments are now a distinct genre of writing. The first text message was sent in 1992. A system of abbreviated text then developed. This is now largely understood and widely used. Many abbreviations are in dictionaries. Shortened terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are common place in text messages. Of course, these mean "for your information," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". A researcher believed abbreviations "would convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised that they elicited negative perceptions.

# TEXT ABBREVIATIONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241118-text-abbreviations-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about text abbreviations in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

