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**Text abbreviations make you look less sincere – 18th November 2024**

## Level 4

A study says people who abbreviate text messages might seem insincere. They might be less likely to get a reply. Researchers asked test participants to rate 5,000 text messages (with and without abbreviations) for their sincerity. They also assessed the likelihood of replying. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere and recipients less likely to write back." They said abbreviations show lower levels of effort.

Abbreviations in texts and on social media are now a distinct genre of writing. A system of abbreviated text had developed. This is largely understood and widely used. Shortened terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are commonplace. These mean "for your information," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". A researcher said believed abbreviations "convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised they elicited negative views.

## Level 5

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 said believed abbreviations "would convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised that they elicited negative perceptions.

## Level 6

A new study suggests that people who abbreviate their text messages might seem insincere. In addition, they might be less likely to receive replies. Researchers from Stanford University in the USA and the University of Toronto in Canada analyzed 5,000 text messages to gauge the impact of abbreviations. Test participants had to rate their perceived sincerity of messages with and without abbreviations. They also evaluated their likelihood of responding. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere and recipients less likely to write back." They added: "Abbreviations signal a lower level of effort from the sender."

Abbreviations in text messages and social media comments have evolved into a distinct genre of writing. The first text message was sent in 1992. Since then, a system of abbreviated text has developed that is largely understood and widely used. Many abbreviations are now in dictionaries. Truncated 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". Researcher David Fang said: "We thought texters might like abbreviations because they would convey an informal sense of closeness, so we were surprised that abbreviations elicited negative perceptions about people who use them."