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**Level 4 – 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-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

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

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 has 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 believed abbreviations "convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised they elicited negative views.

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-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. people who abbreviate           | a. of replying      |
| 2. They might be less likely       | b. participants     |
| 3. test                            | c. levels of effort |
| 4. with and without                | d. text messages    |
| 5. the likelihood                  | e. write back       |
| 6. Abbreviations make senders seem | f. to get a reply   |
| 7. less likely to                  | g. abbreviations    |
| 8. abbreviations show lower        | h. less sincere     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abbreviations in texts and       | a. sense of closeness |
| 2. a distinct genre                 | b. has developed      |
| 3. A system of abbreviated text     | c. widely used        |
| 4. This is largely understood and   | d. negative views     |
| 5. Shortened terms                  | e. of writing         |
| 6. in my humble                     | f. on social media    |
| 7. abbreviations convey an informal | g. opinion            |
| 8. He was surprised they elicited   | h. like "fyi"         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

A study says people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ messages might seem insincere. They might (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to get a reply. Researchers asked test (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 5,000 text messages (with and without abbreviations) for their sincerity. They also (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of replying. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere (5) \_\_\_\_\_ likely to write back." They said abbreviations show lower (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Abbreviations (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on social media are now (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of writing. A system of abbreviated text has developed. This is largely understood (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Shortened terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are commonplace. These mean "for your information," "see you later," and "(4) \_\_\_\_\_ opinion". A researcher believed abbreviations (5) \_\_\_\_\_ sense of closeness". He was surprised they (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A study says people who abbreviate text messages might seem less sincere. 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 common place. These mean "for your information," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". A researcher believed abbreviations "convey an informal sense of closeness". He was surprised they elicited negative views.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Text abbreviations make you look less sincere – 18th November 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

