Internet Slang And Texting Language

These days, the use of **internet slang and SMS (texting) language** is extremely common and they are constantly changing (not unlike real languages). You don’t have to read very deep into a website to find these familiar looking three or four letter abbreviations. However, for many people, these abbreviations can be very confusing. My parents, despite being native English speakers, still don’t have a complete grasp on many of these expressions and abbreviations.

The use of these abbreviations to replace longer words or expressions has a few roots. When cellphone companies first started offering SMS (short messaging service), there was a limit on how long the messages could be. People started using SMS language to minimize both the cost of sending texts, as well as the effort of typing. Similarly, due to abbreviations making typing a quicker process, people started to use abbreviations for common expressions on the internet.

I’d like to outline **a list of commonly used abbreviations and expressions** that people often use on the internet and when sending text messages (*texts*). This is not a complete or exhaustive list by any means; it is simply intended to provide an idea of the nuances behind these frequently used abbreviations. **If there are any useful ones that I have missed, feel free to leave a comment below!**

1. lol – Laughing out loud

“lol” is probably the most famous and commonly used internet slang expression. It is often used in response to someone saying something funny or when you are joking around. Just by adding “lol”, one can give off a lighthearted or joking vibe. It is sometimes hard to convey things like sarcasm when talking on the internet, which is where using “lol” can come in handy. By adding “lol”, a comment or sentence becomes significantly less serious and it can help the reader realize that what is being said is likely a joke. You don’t have to literally laugh out loud to use “lol”; you will find that some people use it at almost any occasion (even instead of punctuation).

For example:

*Jerry: I was thinking of learning how to use nanchakus after seeing that Bruce Lee movie the other day lol*

*Tom: lol… you’re kinda weird*

3. rofl – Rolling on the floor laughing

“rofl” is basically used in the same situations as “lmfao” and “lmao”. It has also spawned the word “roflcopter” (rofl + helicopter) which is just another stupid way to say “rofl”.

For example:

*Frodo: looool I just called my English professor mom by accident…*

*Sam: ROFL!!! Man you’re such an idiot lol*

Note: "looool" is a form of “lol” - the more ‘o’s, the funnier something is!

5. brb – be right back

You would use this if you need to leave the keyboard, or if you know that you will not be able to reply back to someone for a short period of time.

For example:

*Audrey: brb think I hear the pizza delivery guy at the door*

6. g2g – got to go

If you ever need to end a conversation or need to go to do something else, you can use this expression before leaving.

For example:

*Franny: anyways g2g man, I gotta give my hamster a bath*

7. ttyl- talk to you later

This is usually used when you say goodbye to someone.

For example:

*Franny: anyways g2g man, I gotta give my hamster a bath*

*Trav: alright have fun with that buddy, ttyl*

8. cya – see you

This is used as a farewell.

For example:

*Mom: I g2g walk the dog ttyl Courts*

*Courtney: ok cya mom!*

9. imho /imo- in my humble opinion/in my opinion

You can use “imo” whenever you would say “in my opinion” , it’s quite a bit faster to type.

For example:

*Elvis: imo salsa is better than ketchup on hamburgers*

Be careful how you use ‘imho’ since it can seem sarcastic. Try looking on the internet to see how other English speakers use it first.

10. smh – shaking my head

Obviously, when you are talking via text or internet chat, the person you are talking to cannot actually see you. “Shaking my head” would refer to shaking my head in amazement as opposed to  shaking my head to mean yes or no.  “smh” is often used when someone says or does something that is questionable or strange.

For example:

*Romeo: I saw a man kick a dog today! Isn’t that brutal?*

*Juliet: smh… can you believe people these days?*

11. hahaha - laughing (obviously…)

It is interesting to note that laughing online is different in different languages. Just for fun, here is how “hahaha” is typed in other languages.

Thai: 55555

Japanese: www or 笑

Chinese (Mandarin): 哈哈 or 呵呵

Korean: ㅋㅋㅋ

Spanish: jajaja

Greek: xaxaxa

Hebrew: xà xà xà or חָה־חָה־חָה

<https://www.italki.com/article/154/lol-lmfao-wtf-figuring-out-english-internet-slang-and-texting-language>

# Past Conditionals

[f](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/pastconditional.html) [t](http://twitter.com/share?url=http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/pastconditional.html) [g+](http://plus.google.com/share?url=http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/pastconditional.html) [*p*](http://pinterest.com/pin/create/bookmarklet/?media=http://www.englishpage.com/images/englishpage-og.gif&url=http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/pastconditional.html)

## Past Real Conditional

### FORM

[If / When ... Simple Past ..., ... Simple Past ...]

[... Simple Past... if / when ... Simple Past ...]

### USE

The Past Real Conditional describes what you used to do in particular real-life situations. It suggests that your habits have changed and you do not usually do these things today.

Examples:

* If I **went** to a friend's house for dinner, I usually **took** a bottle of wine or some flowers. I don't do that anymore.
* When I **had** a day off from work, I often **went** to the beach. Now, I never get time off.
* If the weather **was** nice, she often **walked** to work. Now, she usually drives.
* Jerry always **helped** me with my homework when he **had** time. But he doesn't do that anymore.
* A: What **did** you usually **do** when it **rained**?  
  B: I usually **stayed** at home.

### IMPORTANT Used to

The form "[used to](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/usedto.html)" expresses the idea that something was an old habit that stopped in the past. This form is commonly used in Past Real Conditional sentences to emphasize that something was a habit. The examples below have the same meaning as the examples above.

Examples:

* If I went to a friend's house for dinner, I **used to take** a bottle of wine or some flowers. I don't do that anymore.
* When I had a day off from work, I **used to go** to the beach. Now, I never get time off.
* If the weather was nice, she **used to walk** to work. Now, she usually drives.
* Jerry **used to help** me with my homework when he had time. But he doesn't do that anymore.
* A: What **did** you usually **do** when it rained?  
  B: I **used to stay** at home.

### IMPORTANT If / When

Both "if" and "when" are used in the Past Real Conditional. Using "if" suggests that something happened less frequently. Using "when" suggests that something happened regularly.

Examples:

* **When** I had a day off from work, I usually went to the beach.  
  I regularly had days off from work.
* **If** I had a day off from work, I usually went to the beach.  
  I rarely had days off from work.

## Past Unreal Conditional

### FORM

[If ... Past Perfect ..., ... would have + past participle ... ]

[... would have + past participle ... if ... Past Perfect ...]

### USE

The Past Unreal Conditional is used to talk about imaginary situations in the past. You can describe what you would have done differently or how something could have happened differently if circumstances had been different.

Examples:

* If I **had owned**a car, I **would have driven** to work. But I didn't own one, so I took the bus.
* She **would have traveled** around the world if she **had had**more money. But she didn't have much money, so she never traveled.
* I **would have read** more as a child if I **hadn't watched**so much TV. Unfortunately, I did watch a lot of TV, so I never read for entertainment.
* Mary **would have gotten** the job and **moved** to Japan if she **had studied** Japanese in school instead of French.
* If Jack **had worked** harder, he **would have earned** more money. Unfortunately, he was lazy and he didn't earn much.
* A: What **would** you **have done** if you **had won** the lottery last week?  
  B: I **would have bought** a house.
* A: What city **would** you **have chosen** if you **had decided** to move to the United States?  
  B: I **would have chosen** Seattle.

### IMPORTANT Only use "If"

Only the word "if" is used with the Past Unreal Conditional because you are discussing imaginary situations. "When" cannot be used.

Examples:

* I would have bought that computer **when** it had been cheaper. **Not Correct**
* I would have bought that computer **if** it had been cheaper. **Correct**

### EXCEPTION Conditional with Modal Verbs

There are some special conditional forms for modal verbs in English:

**would have + can = could have**

**would have + shall = should have**

**would have + may = might have**

The words "can," "shall" and "may" cannot be used with "would have." Instead, they must be used in these special forms.

Examples:

* If I had gone to Egypt, I **could have learned** Arabic.
* If she had had time, she **might have gone** to the party.

The words "could," should," "might" and "ought to" include Conditional, so you cannot combine them with "would have."

Examples:

* If I had had more time, I **could have exercised** after work.
* If he had invited you, you **might have gone**.

<http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/pastconditional.html>