

Disney family Parenting

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What Experts Say

You've long since navigated baby babble and preschooler [potty talk](#), so teen lingo should be a breeze, right? TWYT, newb. (That's shorthand for "That's what you think, newbie.")

Language is one way teenagers have always set themselves apart from adults (remember those coded diary entries from junior high?). With instant- and text-messaging acronyms and shorthand in constant, daily use, it's easier than ever for teens to communicate and harder for parents to understand them, as any parent knows who's been stumped by her child frantically IM'ing "PITR" -- "parent in the room."

So what's a befuddled parent to do, short of forcing Esperanto on her teen?...

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OMG (oh my God), is this really the new lingo? What's a parent to do? Good news, there are websites that break down these acronyms. Net Lingo <http://www.netlingo.com/emailsh.cfm> has a very thorough acronym dictionary. You can always print it out and keep it nearby but be warned, as soon as you figure it out, it is going to change. That's just what teenagers do. BYKT (But You Knew That!)

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