

May 14, 2008

OMG, Teens' Online Chatting Is Linguistically Sophisticated

Despite the worries of their parents (and professors), teenagers' use of language online is surprisingly sophisticated.

That's the conclusion of two researchers from the University of Toronto, who looked at spoken and IM communications of 72 people ages 15 to 20. Instant messaging represented, they said, "an expansive new linguistic renaissance."

The research will appear in a future issue of [American Speech](#), and was reported first by [New Scientist](#).

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What's more, teenagers are more likely to *say* "He was like, 'What's up?'" than to IM it. Online, their parents may be relieved to know, they tend to type "He said, 'What's up?'"—*Lila Guterman*



Today, [The Wired Campus](#) reports that online chatting is more linguistically sophisticated than we may have suspected. The article presents the finding of two researchers from the University of Toronto, who looked at spoken and IM communications of 72 people age 15 to 20. Instant messaging represented, they said, "an expansive new linguistic renaissance."

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AAR8, perhaps studies like this one will serve to further legitimize text messaging as a classroom communication tool. Then again, it could be just as effective for AWLTP.

Be sure to check out the [full article](#) in *The Wired Campus*. Or check out the largest list of text message shorthand at [Netlingo](#).