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Posted on Tue, Feb. 15, 2005

Message mayhem

All those acronyms mean something to teenagers – maybe a lot

By EDWARD M. EVELD
The Kansas City Star

Hey parents, GL trying to crack the code.

GL, as in Good Luck. Researchers say teenagers spend most of their computer time instant-messaging each other, most of it in acronym code. Some of the acronyms used while instant-messaging can yield a result beyond quick communication: KPC (Keeping Parents Clueless).

For instance, would you be concerned to see your youngster type NIFOC or TDTM? You might be. (See chart.)

Meanwhile, parents are trying to maintain limits — on time spent, bad language used and inappropriate topics. A tool for parents: Web sites that decode the acronym volleys your youngsters trade with friends.

One site, www.netlingo.com, posts a dictionary. Most terms are harmless; a few are off-color. Another Web site that could help includes www.teenangels.org, which offers a downloadable “chat translator.”

Here's a small sample of instant-message codes:

- BRB - Be Right Back
- B4YKI - Before You Know It
- C-P - Sleepy
- E123 - Easy as 1-2-3
- EM? - Excuse Me?
- IMNSHO - In My Not So Humble Opinion
- J/C - Just Checking
- NIFOC - Naked in Front of the Computer

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INSWEB Are you paying too much for auto insurance?

ZIP code where you park at night.

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Have you had a U.S driver's license for more than 3 years?	Yes	No
Has any driver in your household had 2 or more accidents or moving violations in the last 3 years?	Yes	No



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NM - Never Mind or Nothing Much
 QT - Cutie
 ROTFL - Rolling on the Floor Laughing
 SOHF - Sense of Humor Failure
 SWDYT - So What Do You Think?
 TDTM - Talk Dirty To Me
 WTH - What the Heck

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