



## COMMENTARY

# Last Word: The Not-So-Secret Internet Text Messaging Lingo

Friday, March 16, 2007



Calling family overseas after Ivan hit Cayman was a real hit-or-miss effort. Most of the times the lines were busy and when you did get through, you could get shut off in about 30 seconds or less.

This is when I finally paid attention to the texting, phenomenon all kids seems to be able to do faster than they could ever get their homework done!

We could text a full message out and it was sent in a matter of seconds!

Wow. No waiting on the line, no need to waste a lot of money on airtime, and bam you communicated!

Faaaan-tastic!

Really.

Like every new phenomenon it has its shady side. Parents, pay attention to the not-so-secret acronyms or lingo, that have arisen as a sort of short hand for these modes of communication.

The more common ones are POS or parent over shoulder if you go to see what your kid is doing online. NetLingo.com says that 9 percent means parent is watching and 99 percent means parent is no longer watching.

However, you should look at the Internet for yourself to understand some of the less savory terms that I cannot write here.

Common terms such as BRB (be right back) G2G (got to go) LOL (laugh out loud) and TTYL (talk to you later) can be time savers and it is fun. Especially if you are at a noisy luncheon or meeting and you just need to communicate quietly.

The telecommunication providers certainly know that this phenomenon is catching on and they offer free text messaging from time to time as a perk for their clients.

It is fun, it is fast and it is one of the modern developments that is a marvelous time saver. Just educate yourself on the terms; it can be embarrassing!

My favorite?

ADIP - another day in paradise. That about sums it up!

Comments/questions:

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