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AL'S MORNING MEETING

Posted, Feb. 9, 2005
Updated, Feb. 9, 2005

Story ideas that you can localize and enterprise. Posted by 7:30 a.m. Mon-Fri.

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Thursday Edition: The Online Language of Teens -- What Parents Should Know

Recycled wrecks... Microsoft critical alerts... Curbing cussing coaches... Schools in pictures... New army combat threads.

By [Al Tompkins \(more by author\)](#)

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A lot of TV stations are scrambling for interesting "sweeps" stories -- this might be one. Parents are pretty much clueless about what their kids are saying online.

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Kids have a lingo, a code they use when the do not want nosey parents to know. It is not enough to just put the computer in a room where adults can see their kids. If you do not know what they are saying, you cannot effectively monitor what they are doing.

For example, what would your kid be saying if they typed:

NIFOC?

TDTM?

BB4N?

Or this one: POS [Click here for answers](#).

[MSNBC's Technology page points out:](#)

While adults use online for research, news and to check out Web sites, kids tend to use instant messaging more.

Instant messaging is as common as e-mail among youthful Internet users -- and teens are almost twice as likely to use it as adults, according to Teenage Life Online. Jupiter Research reported in 2003 that 70 percent of teenagers said instant messaging was their favorite online activity. And three years ago, the Pew Internet Project reported quite a disparity among parents and their children over Internet use. While 61 percent of parents said they issued rules about Net use, only 37 percent of teenagers said they were subjected to Net time restrictions.

[Netlingo.com](#) includes an exhaustive collection of shorthand messages. Here is a sample that would be fun to test on some teens and their parents:

Shorthand	Meaning
A/S/L	Age/Sex/Location
AWGTHGTGA	Are We Going To Have To Go Through This Again
BOHICA	Bend Over Here It Comes Again
CRTLA	Can't Remember the Three-Letter Acronym
ESO	Equipment Smarter than Operator
GLYASDI	God Loves You And So Do I
GYPO	Get Your Pants Off
NIFOC	Nude (naked) In Front Of The Computer
NYCFS	New York City Finger Salute
OLL	On-Line Love
QT	Cutie
RTBS	Reason To Be Single
RUMORF	Are You Male Or Female
SOHF	Sense Of Humor Failure
SSEWBA	Someday Soon, Everything Will Be Acronyms
TDTM	Talk Dirty To Me

