

# THE ROSCOMMON COUNTY HERALD-NEWS

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## Text messaging world can be very confusing

By Jeff Patrus

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I must be getting old.

When I was growing up, there were several technological advances that were all the rage. Items such as personal computers, compact discs, and video games, and even more recently, DVD players and cell phones, were the coolest thing on earth — never mind that our parents couldn't understand for the life of them how they worked, no matter how much you tried explaining those items to them.

Now, it's my turn to question the importance of a popular form of communication in today's world, text messaging. A decade ago, text messaging wasn't even on the radar as far as communication goes. Now, seemingly everyone is texting everyone else, and cell phone companies have text message plans as part of their services. In fact, those companies occasionally send messages themselves, usually to remind their customers that their bill is due.

In particular, some of the abbreviations that today youngsters use to communicate with one another leave me baffled. One of them (LOL, which stands for laugh out loud) is easy enough for me to understand. However, beyond that, I don't understand what they're talking about, and it makes me feel like a nerd — or I should say, even more of a nerd than I am already.

Not to mention where and how often people text each other. For crying out loud, they text each other when they're sitting in the same room together, even if there's no one else in the room. Plus, they text each other about the most trivial of stuff, like what outfits they're going to wear. Back in the good old days, kids drove their parents nuts by talking to each other on the phone constantly. Now they do so by texting each other constantly. That's progress for you.

Since I'm not well versed in text messaging lingo, I decided to search on the Web for a list of the various text-messaging codes that people use today. My Google search led me to the site [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com). From there, I started looking through the list of acronyms, and several of them were quite confusing, to say the least.

For instance, there's the acronym 4COL, which means, "for crying out loud." At first glance, I thought it meant that a person was a big fan of the state of Colorado, or in other words, "for Colorado." Shows you what I know. Another one is AAK, which means Asleep At Keyboard. That's another one that puzzles me. If someone were, in fact, asleep at their keyboard, they wouldn't be alert enough to type in that acronym in the first place!

To most people, the word fish is used to describe an animal, seafood, or trying to catch a fish. To folks in the text-messaging world, FISH means “first in, still here.” I suppose there’s a reason for that acronym, but it’s lost on me right now. In addition, if most people tell you to sit, you find the nearest chair or floor and park yourself there. If a text-messaging friend tells you to SIT, that means to “stay in touch.”

There are plenty more acronyms where that came from. Some of them can be quite descriptive and suggestive to say the least — another hurdle for parents to jump over in an attempt to protect their children and help them deal with the mass amounts of information out there.

This new text-messaging world can be very confusing to say the least. Trying to make sense of it could potentially make me ACORN (A Completely Obsessive, Really Nutty person).

*<http://www.roscommonherald-news.com/detail/83140.html>*