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Good Question: What Does Kids' Online Lingo Mean?

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(WCCO) Acronyms are becoming shorthand for teenagers sending fast instant messages to friends. There are thousands of acronyms, many of which parents have a hard time deciphering.

So what does the online lingo mean?

One parent said her children chat on the Internet and has seen the acronyms her children use to speak to their friends online.

"A lot of just short words and letters that mean, I guess, different things," the parent explained.

It has created an acronym rich environment, which leaves some parents feeling out of the loop.

Three college students -- Abby, Kim and Maria -- helped crack the code of the online lingo.

For example, LOL translates to "laughing out loud", TMI means "too much information" and BRB means "be right back".

"Some people have, you know, eight conversations at once and you can't spend the time typing every word," Abby explained.

The students said making sure parents don't hear what they are talking about is part of the allure of talking to friends online.

POS stands for "parent over shoulder". Kim explained that when someone writes that, the other person should not write anything they do not want parents to know about.

One survey found 70 percent of teenagers consider instant messaging their favoring online activity.

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