

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises:
unscrambling, matching,
gap-fill

Focus

Chat abbreviations and
acronyms

Aim

To learn and practice
instant messaging
abbreviations and
acronyms.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
two-page worksheet for
each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this chat abbreviations worksheet, students learn and practice instant messaging abbreviations and acronyms that people often use in online chats and text messages.

Procedure continued

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by reading an instant messaging conversation between two friends.

Students then unscramble words to reveal the words and phrases that the abbreviations and acronyms in the chat represent.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. I don't know | 8. rolling on the floor laughing |
| 2. girlfriend | 9. in my opinion |
| 3. never mind | 10. as soon as possible |
| 4. be right back | 11. oh my god |
| 5. by the way | 12. boyfriend |
| 6. laugh out loud | 13. let me know |
| 7. talk to you later | 14. no problem |

Next, students write the chat abbreviations next to their definitions.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| 1. ROTFL | 6. TTYL | 11. BF and GF |
| 2. LMK | 7. IDK | 12. IMO |
| 3. NVM | 8. ASAP | 13. NP |
| 4. BRB | 9. OMG | |
| 5. BTW | 10. LOL | |

Finally, students complete sentences with the chat abbreviations from the worksheet.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | |
|----------|--------|---------------|
| 1. IDK | 5. BTW | 9. IMO |
| 2. ROTFL | 6. BRB | 10. TTYL |
| 3. ASAP | 7. NVM | 11. BF and GF |
| 4. OMG | 8. LMK | 12. NP |

Read the instant messaging conversation between Sung-ho and Tanmay.

Sung-ho: Hey Tan. Did you finish your report or were you too busy playing computer games?

Tanmay: **LOL**. Don't worry Sung. I finished it all.

Sung-ho. Great! Did the teacher say it was due on Tuesday?

Tanmay: **IDK**. I wasn't really paying attention in class. I was daydreaming about going to the beach at the weekend.

Sung-ho: **ROTFL**. That is so typical of you.

Tanmay: **OMG**. That's not true. I am a great student. **BTW**, will your **GF** be joining us at the beach on Sat?

Sung-ho: No. We broke up. She said she can't have a **BF** anymore because of her studies.

Tanmay: **NVM**. I don't think she was right for you. You can do better **IMO**.

Sung-ho: **LOL**. Thanks!

Tanmay: **NP**. Hey Sung. Give me a minute. There's someone at the door. **BRB**.

Sung-ho: OK. Sure.

Tanmay: Back! **BTW**, my mum said she might give us a ride on Sat. She's going to confirm with me **ASAP**.

Sung-ho: Nice! **LMK** when she does.

Tanmay: OK. I have to go now.

Sung-ho: **TTYL**



A. Unscramble the words to reveal the words and phrases that the abbreviations and acronyms in the chat represent.

1. I dtno kwon		8. rgonlil no the frloo lganuigh	
2. glrifdrnie		9. ni ym onpoiin	
3. nreev mdni		10. sa snoo sa peolsbis	
4. eb rtihg bkac		11. ho ym dgo	
5. yb het wya		12. bdonyefir	
6. lhagu otu lduo		13. lte em kwno	
7. tkla ot ouy lraert		14. on pmreolb	

B. Write the chat abbreviations from the box next to their definitions.

LOL	OMG	LMK	GF	IMO	BRB	BTW	ROTFL	NVM	NP	TTYL	BF	ASAP	IDK
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1. Used to indicate something extremely funny.
2. Used to request future information.
3. Used to tell someone not to be worried about something.
4. Used to indicate that you are leaving the conversation for a moment.
5. Used to bring up a new point or topic.
6. Used at the end of a conversation.
7. Used to indicate no awareness or understanding.
8. Used to indicate something will happen within a short time.
9. Used to indicate shock or surprise.
10. Used to indicate something is funny.
11. Two abbreviations to indicate a romantic partner.
12. Used to show your belief or attitude.
13. Used to say one is happy to do something or is not concerned.

C. Now, complete the sentences with the chat abbreviations from the worksheet.

1. Good question. Let me find out.
2. That's the funniest thing ever!
3. I will let you know
4. I can't believe he actually said that.
5. Yeah, I'm not looking forward to the exam either., what are you doing tonight?
6. Hold on a minute. Someone is calling me.
7. I'm sure you will do better next time.
8. If you can't make it on Sat, please
9. I'm not sure where to go. This town is pretty boring
10. The plane is about to take off.
11. Do you have a
12. We can arrange that for another time.