

Does Texting Hurt Your Grammar?

DOES TEXTING HURT YOUR Grammar?

A study has found that the more students text, the more it may impact their grammar. How does this happen and why does it matter? Learn more:

What is Techspeak?



The shortened language allows users to type more quickly, especially if the number of characters they can use is limiting. For example:

See → C

Words are abbreviated: "see" becomes "c"

To → 2

Homophone symbols are used: "to" becomes "2"

! → !

Punctuation and capitalization are ignored for the most part. Example: gr8 c u 2nite

Techspeak also uses abbreviations and acronyms, like these that were added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2011:



Laughing Out Loud



Too Much Information



Oh My God



In My Humble/Honest Opinion



For Your Information

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HERE'S THE PROBLEM

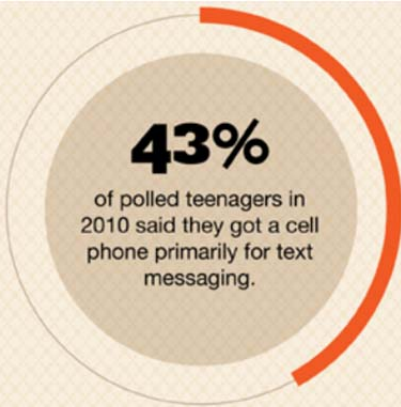
Middle school students are the most likely to use techspeak. But middle school is when students' formative learning years occur.

Boys
2,539

Girls
4,050

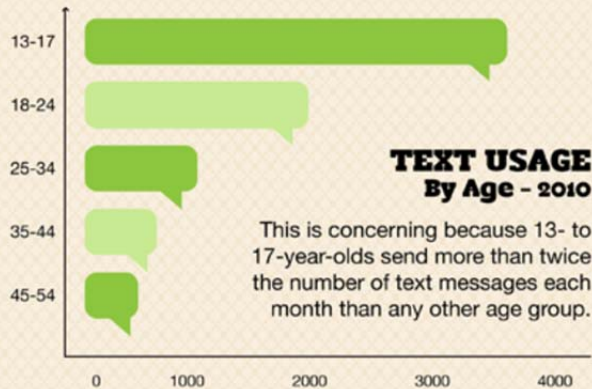
Young Adults
1,630

(Average number of texts sent per month)



The study concluded that: students who use techspeak often may have trouble switching back to traditional grammar when needed.

Using techspeak may rob kids of a fundamental understanding of standard grammar.



Plus, the more often they received text messages with techspeak, the more often they were likely to send a text using techspeak.



Middle school students who own a cell phone are more likely to use informal writing styles in instant messaging and email too, than students who did not own a cell phone.

HOW DO STUDENTS FEEL?



"A decline in grammatical skills is attributed to the use of techspeak in most daily communications."



50%

of surveyed teens said they do not use proper punctuation or grammatical marks when writing text or instant messages.



11%

said they thought electronic communications had a negative impact on their writing skills.



86%

of adolescents think having good writing skills is important for success in life.

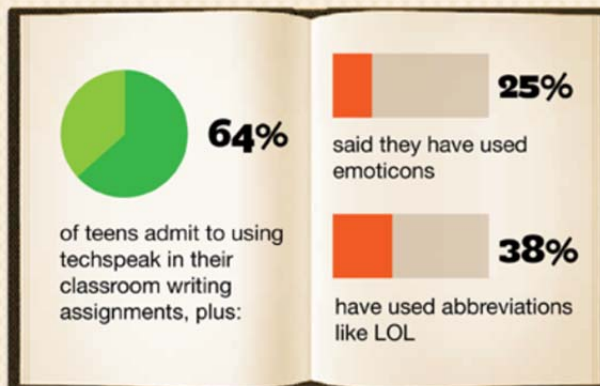
The major OFFENDERS?



Punctuation errors



Apostrophe errors





Emoticon usage



Abbreviations such as "cuz"



Sentence fragments



CANADA

Agrees

An article in Canada's *Globe and Mail* concluded that texting is not just harming college students' grammar skills, it's killing them.

Why does all of this matter?

Communicating poorly may give someone the wrong impression of you. The person may think you can't:



think clearly



express yourself well



spell or punctuate

Sources: nms.sagepub.com | blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/ | health.usnews.com | blog.nielsen.com | theglobeandmail.com

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