

A Guide to Emojis, Acronyms, and Online Slang

The digital world is a constant source of connection and communication for children and teens. However, it also has its own unique language, full of emojis, acronyms, and slang that can be confusing or even concerning for parents.

Understanding this language is crucial for keeping our children safe, fostering open communication, and navigating the complexities of their online lives.

This document aims to provide parents with a comprehensive guide to decoding the digital chatter, promoting a safer and more informed approach to parenting in the digital age.



Disclaimer: This document is intended for informational purposes only. Online language is constantly evolving. Parents should engage in open communication with their children and use this as a tool to open conversations, not as a replacement for them.

Section 1: Emojis - A Visual Language

Emojis have become a staple of online communication, conveying emotions and meanings beyond simple text. However, they can also be used in ways that are concerning.

1.1: Common Emojis and Their Meanings

• 🐕 (Skull):

- Meaning: Often used to express extreme laughter or "dying" from something funny, not literal death.
- Example: "That meme was so funny, I'm !"
- o Parenting Tip: While often harmless, be aware of context.

• 😈 (Clown):

- Meaning: Used to indicate someone is foolish or being mocked, often playfully.
- Example: "You're acting like a 😈."
- Parenting Tip: Discuss the difference between playful teasing and bullying.

• • (Eyes):

- Meaning: Can mean "I'm watching" or "I see what you did there," indicating awareness.
- ∘ Example: "I saw that ••."
- o Parenting Tip: This can be used to show awareness of a situation.

• **(Goat)**:

- Meaning: Greatest of all time.
- Example: "That play was \(\frac{1}{2} \)."
- Parenting tip: This is used to show something is the best.

• 9 (Smirk Face):

- Meaning: Can symbolize the person is being flirtatious, or trying to get something in a romantic manner.
- ∘ Example: "What are you doing later ��?"
- Parenting Tip: Discuss online relationships with your children.



1.1: Common Emojis and Their Meanings

• **(Nail Polish)**:

- Meaning: A response that indicates you're not bothered about something someone said about you.
- Example: "Whatever <a>
- o Parenting tip: Discuss online relationships with your children.

• 🤷 (Woman Tipping Hand):

- Meaning: Used to express an exasperated "I don't even know what to think anymore".
- Example: "That is crazy <a>\textstyle{\tex
- o Parenting tip: This is used to express confusion.

• (Fingers pointing to each other):

- Meaning: The user is feeling shy.
- Example: "I am feeling —"
- o Parenting tip: Be aware of what your children are shy about.

≤(Hand with a pencil):

- Meaning: Reminder to take note or take the advice.
- ∘ Example: "You need to listen ∠"
- o Parenting Tip: This can be used as a warning.

• 😌(Drooling Face):

- Meaning: Response to someone being attractive.
- ∘ Example: "That guy is 🤤"
- o Parenting Tip: Talk about healthy relationships.

• 94 (100 Points):

- Meaning: Keeping it real or 100.
- Example: "That is <u>"</u>"
- Parenting Tip: This is used to show that something is real.



1.2: Emojis with Concerning Meanings

Drug-Related Emojis:

- 🔌 (Plug):
 - Meaning: Drug dealer.
 - Example: "Hit up my \(\) later."
 - o Parenting Tip: Discuss the dangers of drug use with your child.
- * 🕏 🍑 (Snowflakes, Snowmen, Blowfish):
 - Meaning: Cocaine.
 - Example: "Want some **?"
 - Parenting tip: Explain how coded messages are used to hide dangerous activities.
- ******♥*** **** (Four leaf clover, tree, herb, brocolli,leaf):
 - Meaning: Cannabis.
 - ∘ Example: "Lets smoke some 🗲"
 - Parenting Tip: Explain the dangers of drug use.
- 😘 🎻 ∰ (Candy, Pills, Syringe, face with steam from nose, rocket):
 - Meaning: various types of narcotics.
 - Example: "Got some \(\rightarrow \) for sale."
 - Parenting Tip: Explain how coded messages are used to hide dangerous activities.
- A(A horse):
 - Meaning: ketamine.
 - Example: "Want some ?"
 - Parenting Tip: Explain the dangers of drug use.
- ♥∰∰™(Alien, demon mask, space invader, or skull and crossbones):
 - Meaning: MDMA.
 - ∘ Example: "Lets get some 👽"
 - o Parenting Tip: Explain the dangers of drug use.



1.2: Emojis with Concerning Meanings Sexting Emojis:

• \\) (Eggplant, Peach, Banana, Water droplets):

- Meaning: Used for sexual innuendo.
- Example: "Sending > pics." or ">>>>" = Explicit sexual act.
- Parenting Tip: Talk to your child about the risks of sharing explicit content.

(Cherries):

- Meaning: Breasts.
- Example: "Nice \(\bigsim\)"
- o Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

• 🐚 (Grapes):

- Meaning: testicles.
- ∘ Example: "Nice 🐂"
- Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

• ¶(Open Mailbox With Raised Flag):

- Meaning: Sex.
- Example: "Want to go to the \frac{4}{7}?"
- o Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

• **S**(Sweat Droplets):

- Meaning: Orgasm.
- ∘ Example: "That was 💦"
- o Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

• "(Raised Fist followed by Sweat Droplets):

- Meaning: Masturbation.
- Example: "I am going to ""
- o Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.



1.2: Emojis with Concerning Meanings Sexting Emojis Continued:

• • (Eyes):

- Meaning: Used to request explicit photos.
- ∘ Example: "Send me some ••"
- Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators and sharing explicit content.

• (2)(Woman Gesturing OK):

- Meaning: Female orgasm.
- Example: "She did the <a>©"
- Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

- Meaning: erection.
- Example: "Look at my 4"
- o Parenting Tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

Other Problematic Emojis:

• ¶(Squirt Gun):

- o Meaning: Express extreme frustration, stress, or embarrassment.
- Example: "This is too much "\forall"
- Parenting tip: Monitor your child's stress levels.

- o Meaning: Symbolize a "backstabber".
- ∘ Example: "He is a 🔊
- o Parenting tip: Discuss online bullying.

i (Smiling face with horns):

- Meaning: In the mood to have a sexual encounter.
- ∘ Example: "I am feeling 😈"
- o Parenting tip: Talk to your children about online predators.



1.2: Emojis with Concerning Meanings

Other Problematic Emojis Continued:

• **(Fire)**:

- Meaning: "Lit", "fire", or "sexy".
- ∘ Example: "You are 🖖"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor what your children are saying online.

• 🥻 (Woman Dancing):

- Meaning: Expressing the desire to party hard.
- ∘ Example: "Let's go 🞉"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor who your children are partying with.

• \(\text{(Kitchen Knife):}

- Meaning: Expression of being in a bad mood or wanting to cause destruction.
- ∘ Example: "I am so mad 🔪"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor your child's stress levels.

• K (Women With Bunny Ears):

- Meaning: Can mean a girls' night out or as code for "sex worker".
- ∘ Example: "Going out with the 👯"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor who your child is going out with.

• **O**(Avocado):

- Meaning: Basic.
- ∘ Example: "You are so 🥑"
- Parenting tip: Monitor for online bullying.

• *****(Snowflake):

- Meaning: Derogatory term to describe a young person who is easily offended or used to represent cocaine.
- ∘ Example: "You are such a 🔆"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor for online bullying.



1.2: Emojis with Concerning Meanings Other Problematic Emojis Continued:

• %(Clapping Hands):

- Meaning: When used in between every single word in a sentence, it represents a passive-aggressive way of emphasizing something that people can't seem to understand.
- ∘ Example: "You 👏 need 👏 to 👏 listen 👏"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor for online bullying.

• 👛 (Rat):

- Meaning: Snitch.
- ∘ Example: "You are a 🌉"
- o Parenting tip: Monitor for online bullying.

• 😃 (Dizzy Face):

- Meaning: Having just seen something x-rated.
- Example: "I just saw something <a>®"
- o Parenting tip: Talk to your children about online predators.

• (Rainbow):

- Meaning: LGBTQ+.
- ∘ Example: "I am 🜈"
- Parenting tip: Start a conversation about sexuality.

• 18 (Under 18):

- Meaning: Something explicit.
- ∘ Example: "That is under ®"
- o Parenting tip: Talk to your children about online predators.



1.3: Coloured Hearts and Their Meanings

- **(Red)**: Love.
- (Purple): Sexual attraction.
- (Yellow): Interest in someone, but seeking confirmation.
- (Pink): Interest, but not necessarily in a romantic or sexual way.
- (Orange): Reassurance or support ('You're going to be fine').
- **(Green)**: Nature, growth, and harmony.
- (Blue Heart): Trust, loyalty, peace, harmony, stability.
- (Brown Heart): Earth, stability, solidarity, comfort.
- **(Black Heart)**: Sadness, dark humor, morbidity, grief, irony.
- (White Heart): Purity, innocence, peace, support.

Whilst the coloured hearts each have their own meaning, it is important to keep in mind that your children may often use a heart that represents their favourite colour without knowing the meaning behind it. Trust your inticts, you know your child best!



Section 2: Acronyms - The Shorthand of the Internet

Acronyms are a quick and efficient way for kids to communicate online, but they can be confusing for parents and sometimes hide concerning meanings.

2.1: Common Acronyms

• **AFAIK:** As far as I know.

• **BRB:** Be right back.

• **BTW:** By the way.

• FOMO: Fear of missing out.

• IDK: I don't know.

• IKR: I know, right?

• ILY/ILU: I love you.

• LMK: Let me know.

• LOL: Laughing out loud.

• NSFW: Not safe for work. (Inappropriate online content)

• POS: Parent over shoulder. (May be used this to hide things from you.)

• **SMH:** Shaking my head.

• TTYL: Talk to you later.

• WU: What's up?

• WYCM: Will you call me?



2.2: Acronyms with Concerning Meanings

Substance Use:

• **420:** Marijuana.

• Molly: MDMA or ecstasy.

• Pre-ing: Pre-drinking (consuming alcohol before going out).

• Wavey: Drunk or high.

• Wired: Drug-induced paranoia.

Mental Health:

• #ana: Anorexia.

• #deb: Depression.

• #sue: Suicide.

• #svv: Self-harming behavior.

• #thinsp: "Thinspiration" (promoting unhealthy eating habits).

Sexual Activity:

• CU46: "See you for sex."

• FWB: "Friends with benefits."

GNOC: "Get naked on camera."

• IWSN: "I want sex now."

• NIFOC: "Naked in front of computer."

• "Down in the DM": Planning sexual encounters through direct messages.

• Hooking up: Having sex.

• Smash: Casual sex.

• Thirsty: Desperate for sexual attention.



Section 3: Online Sayings and Slang

Beyond emojis and acronyms, children and teens use a variety of online sayings and slang that can be confusing or concerning for parents.

3.1: General Slang

- Dank: Something "really good."
- Basic: Someone viewed as boring or conforming.
- Goat: Greatest of all time.
- Lit: Exciting or cool.
- Snatched: On point/very good/well-styled.
- Swole: Extremely buff or physically fit.
- Turnt up: Getting drunk/high to the highest degree.
- Yeet: A very strong "yes."

3.2: Concerning Sayings

- Booty call: Request for sex (usually late night).
- Hook up: Get sexual.
- **Netflix 'n chill:** Meet under the pretence of watching TV together when actually planning to meet to "make out" or have sex.
- Tap that: Would have or have had sex.
- Umfriend: 'Intimate' partner.
- **Sugarpic:** Suggestive or erotic picture of self.



Section 4: Parenting Tips

Understanding online language is just the first step. Here are some practical tips for parents to navigate their child's digital world safely.

4.1: General Tips

• Open Communication:

- o Talk to your children regularly about their online activities.
- Create a safe space for them to share their experiences without fear of judgment.
- Ask open-ended questions to encourage detailed responses.

Stay Informed:

- Keep up-to-date with the latest online trends, apps, and slang.
- Familiarise yourself with the platforms your children use.
- Use resources like this document to stay informed.

• Use Parental Control Tools:

- Utilise available tools to monitor and manage your child's online access.
- Set appropriate screen time limits and content filters.
- Be transparent about using these tools and explain why they are necessary.

• Lead by Example:

- Model healthy digital habits for your children.
- Be mindful of your own screen time and online behavior.
- Show them how to use technology responsibly.

• Educate About Online Safety:

- Teach your children about the dangers of sharing personal information online.
- Explain the risks of online predators, cyberbullying, and sexting.
- Emphasise the importance of critical thinking and verifying information.

• Context is Key:

- Remind yourself that the meaning of online language changes often.
- The context of the conversation is very important.
- o If you are unsure about something, ask your child.



4.2: Tips for Specific Concerns

• Drugs and Alcohol:

- Discuss the dangers of substance use and how it can be glorified online.
- Explain how coded messages are used to hide dangerous activities.
- Be aware of signs of substance use in your child's online activity.

• Sexting and Online Predators:

- Talk to your child about the risks of sharing explicit content.
- Explain how online predators can manipulate and groom children.
- Emphasise the importance of not sharing personal information or meeting strangers online.

Mental Health:

- Be aware of signs of depression, anxiety, or self-harm in your child's online activity.
- Encourage open communication about their feelings and struggles.
- Seek professional help if you have concerns about their mental health.

• Cyberbullying:

- o Discuss the impact of online insults and harassment.
- Teach your child how to report and block cyberbullies.
- Emphasise the importance of being kind and respectful online.

How Social Kids Can Help:

Social Kids understands the challenges parents face in the digital age. We provide resources and workshops to help you understand the online world, navigate tricky conversations, and keep your children safe. Importantly, Social Kids is dedicated to equipping foundation phase children with the skills to protect themselves online before they reach their teens, fostering a foundation of digital safety.



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