

**Региональная научно-практическая конференция обучающихся
«К вершинам знаний»**

Секция: Иноязычные культуры

Тема: English Abbreviations and Reductions in the Internet Correspondences (chats)

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays we spend a lot of time on the Internet, communicating with English-speakers and surfing English language sites to develop our English skills. While doing that we come across lots of different English abbreviations and reductions which are commonly used and generally ask ourselves: “What do these weird abbreviations mean?”

The object of study is English abbreviations and reductions on the Internet.

Relevance of the chosen subject:

The learning of linguistic rules and contemporary tendencies in the English language makes it possible to avoid misunderstanding when chatting with native speakers. Besides, we can use them by ourselves to make our speech more fluent.

Hypothesis:

The knowledge of youth language realities and their use in the written speech helps communicating via the Internet with our peers and saves time on correspondence.

Novelty of the study:

The results can be used in the educational work and off-hour. So, it will allow students to develop their vocabulary and writing skills in informal English.

RESEARCH

The purpose of the research is to identify the understanding and ability of students of different age groups to recognize and use English abbreviations on the Internet.

Progress:

- 1) To determine the percentage of students of different age groups able to recognize and use English abbreviations on the Internet.
- 2) To identify the causes which affect the use of English abbreviations on the Internet.
- 3) To prove that knowledge of English abbreviations is important for communicating with English-speakers on the Internet.
- 4) To make a conclusion.

The following survey was carried out to find out the student's knowledge and awareness. The bar charts describe the results of a survey carried out on a sample of 20 students from the three age groups. The first age group consisted of the 7th grade students, the second group included the 8th grade students. The last age group comprised the students of the 10th grade, specializing in philology.

Questionnaire

1. Do you communicate with English-speaking people on the Internet?
2. Write down what this abbreviation means if you know it.

Thx	
Plz	
:-D	
lol	
OMG	
probs	
XOXO	

3. Why do we need English abbreviations on the Internet?
4. Do you use English abbreviations on the Internet?
5. What problems do you have with understanding of English abbreviations on the Internet?

Analysis of the survey

1. According to the bar chart (*Appendix 1*) 92.9% of the 7th grade pupils are aware of more than half proposed abbreviations, while 7.1% of the respondents know less than a half of them. It

is interesting that all students of the 8th and 10th grades are knowledgeable about all of the proposed abbreviations.

2. According to the bar chart (*Appendix 2*) a half of the pupils of the 7th grade communicates with native English- speakers via the Internet. Whereas only 41% of the students of the 8th keep-in-touch with their peers who speak English as their mother tongue or learn it as a foreign language in the social networks. Considering the pupils of senior forms, I can say that the majority of them, especially the pupils of philological specialization (86 %), take their chance to communicate with native speakers on the Internet.
3. According to the bar chart (*Appendix 3*) it is obvious that the majority of residents (79%) of the 7th grade think that English abbreviations help to save time on writing messages and 21% of them believe that they make written speech more modern. Then, 88% of the 8th grade students are sure that reductions are convenient for writing messages and 12% find it difficult to give an answer. Similarly, almost all senior pupils (86%) of the 10th grade are inclined in writing shortened words and abbreviations. They are convinced that this type of writing is very popular in chats.
4. According to the bar chart (*Appendix 4*) the majority of different age group use reduced words and abbreviations in their correspondence frequently. 57.1% of the 7th grade students often use English abbreviations, 14.3% seldom use them and 28.6% use them only occasionally. 58.9% of students of the 8th grade often use them, 17.6% seldom use them and 23.5 % use them from time to time. The vast majority of students of the 10th grade: namely, 88.2%, often use English abbreviations on the Internet and 11.8% use them occasionally.
5. According to the bar chart (*Appendix 5*) we can see that 57% of the students of the 7th grade have problems with understanding English abbreviations due to their ignorance, that is obviously less than the pupils of senior grades

Based on this, I can conclude that use of abbreviations and reductions in chats with native speakers depends on the students' age and their level of English study.

CONCEPT ANALYSIS OF ABBREVIATION

Needless to say, the language of the virtual communication is not something new. Its history originated in the telegraph appearance. They were the telegraphists who first began to transmit messages with omitted vowel letters in words. Further, the idea found its continuation in the Morse code where operators used the initial syllables of words instead of the entire unit. Some researchers suppose the language of the virtual communication derives from the language of SMS messages. And the language of SMS messages derives from the argot used by the youth. The new thing is only the way of communication. The style of presentation depends on the user's age and his addressee's age. Basically, the younger they are, the more their conversation is full of different abbreviations. The language of the virtual communication is rarely used by people who are older 35. Consequently, it isn't surprising that even English-speaking parents don't always understand what their children write in different messages.

Internet users show amazing creativity and imagination when they form the abbreviations. According to the statistics of one of the biggest sites dedicated to the abbreviations in the Web (www.AcronymFinder.com), there are currently about 760000 registered English abbreviations in its database and more than 41000 abbreviations are registered in the category "Slang & Pop Culture" that includes the abbreviations from chats and SMS messages.

The kinds of English abbreviations are very diverse. The first group is the largest group which includes usual abbreviations. It's impossible to remember all of these abbreviations; even the native English speakers guess the meaning of certain abbreviation in context. This group includes, for example, IDK (I don't know), OIC (Oh, I see), CU (See you), B (be), R (are), How r u? (How are you?), LOL (laughing out loud), AFAIK (as far as I know), IMHO (in my humble opinion), HAND (Have a nice day).

The second group includes numeric and alphanumeric abbreviations which are also called graphic abbreviations as they are found only in written speech, whereas their corresponding full forms are used in oral speech. These are such abbreviations as cu l8r (see you later), 2day (today), m8 (mate), Any1 (Anyone), F2F (Face to face), B4N (Bye for now), CUL8R (See you later), H2CUS (Hope to see you soon), 10X (Thanks), GR8 (Great), B4 (Before). The phonetic design of the figure 2 (two) matches the words *to*, *too*; the figure 4 is placed instead of preposition *for*.

The third abbreviation group includes words shortened in the process of speaking: kinda (kind of), wanna (want to), lime (let me), semi (semicolon), jock (jockey), quest (question), Net (Internet), vac (vacation), hols (holidays), grad (graduate), crim (criminal), ad (advertisement).

Except of the above-mentioned abbreviations, there are more complex formations consisting of several known abbreviations. For example, you can use KTHXBAl (OK, thanx, bye), if you want to express your distaste to interlocutor and cut off your conversation quickly or, straight conversely, if you want to emphasize your good feelings about him you can use LYLAb (Love you like a brother) or LYLAS (Love you like a sister).

There is a case when a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Scotland wrote a school essay on "How I Spent the Summer" theme in SMS language. Try to read and understand the meaning of it:

"My smmr hols wr CWOT. B4 we usd 2go2 NY 2C my bro, his GF& thr 3 kds FTF. ILNY it's a gr8 plc."

The text translated into the normalized English looks like this:

"My summer holidays were a complete waste of time. Before, we used to go to New York to see my brother, his girlfriend and their 3 kids face to face. I love New York, it's a great place."

Also, the use of the abbreviated words and collocations is a widespread phenomenon in the Anglo-American scientific, technical or professional literature. There are three types of abbreviations: letter abbreviations, syllabic abbreviations and truncated words. Let's consider each of these categories.

Letter abbreviations are formed of the initial letters of the abbreviated words and collocations. These initial word abbreviations are pronounced completely as the original words: p. – page, c. – cathode.

Collocation abbreviations are often pronounced by letters, according to their alphabetical name. In some cases the initials of the abbreviation merge and form sort of new word which is pronounced in accordance with the English pronunciation norm:

UNESCO [ju:'neskou] = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UFO ['ju: fəu] = Unidentified Flying Object

Truncated words. With this method of words' reduction can disappear:

a) the initial part of the word, with the rest being read as a new word:

chute [Su: t] = parachute

bus [b ʌ s] = omnibus

b) the end of the word:

min = minute

fig. = figure

c) the middle part of the word:

Ry = railway

ft = foot

d) the individual elements of the word; mainly vowels:

opnl = operational

hb = hemoglobin

The use of reductions in virtual communication and Internet correspondence aims to save both addresser and addressee's efforts. That's why the communication is full of lexical and graphic abbreviations.

One of the reasons for the use of abbreviations is an attraction to something unusual and to verbal advances. They are born in a free speech, in a narrow social environment, most often among the youth as a conscious violation of the norm, a protest against it, when a well-known, frequently used word takes on a general novelty. And a certain freedom attracts in the creation of such a word, therefore such words are familiar to jargon and common language.

The analysis of the reasons for the use of abbreviations leads to the conclusion that they are used not only in writing, but also in speaking. Such a phenomenon can be encountered in any language. There are linguistic and extralinguistic reasons for the appearance of abbreviations.

Extralinguistic reasons:

- the scientific and technological revolution and social progress;
- the growth in flows of information;
- the wide use of mechanical (and electronic) means of communication.

Linguistic reasons:

- the language economy trend;
- the unequal distribution of information between individual elements of the speech stream;
- the influence of colloquial and slang elements in vocabulary;
- the ability to form the whole word for the purpose of fixing a new concept instead of its description.

All of the abbreviations in chats can be conditionally divided into groups in the area of use:

1. parenthetical words;
2. the imperative mood;
3. stable phrases;
4. frequently used words;
5. words, expressing the state of the chat member (emojis).

CONCLUSION

Thus, compactness, quickness and absence of grammatical and spelling rules which are the characteristic features of modern virtual communication have led to the inclusion and wide distribution of new spellings, and the use of non-traditional spelling norms.

Also, the results can be interesting, cognitive and helpful for teenagers' communication on the Internet. They can stimulate teenagers' fresh insight into learning and using both familiar and new words.

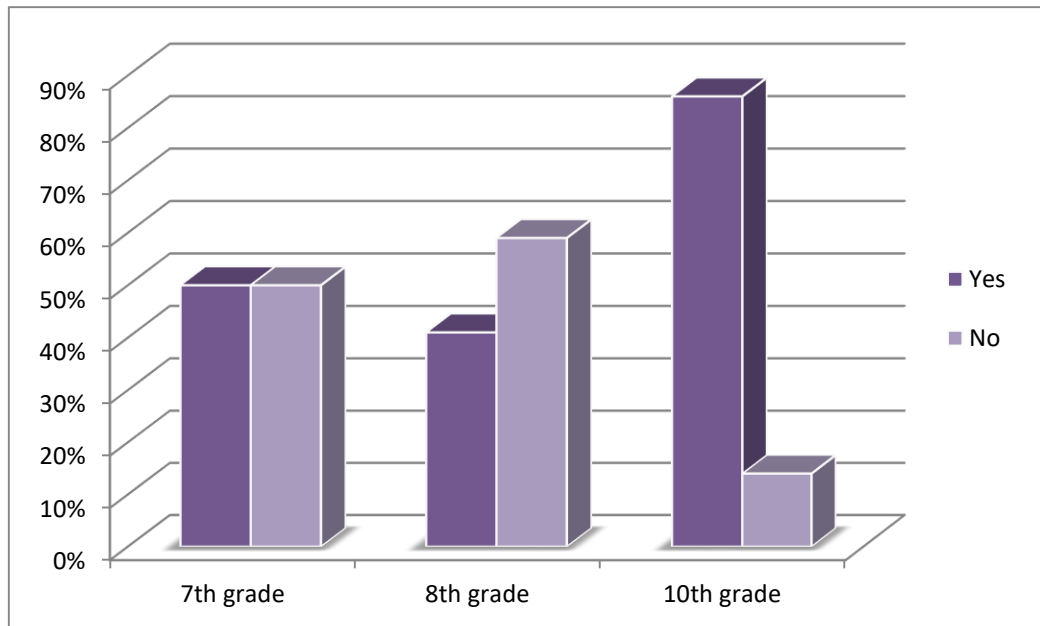
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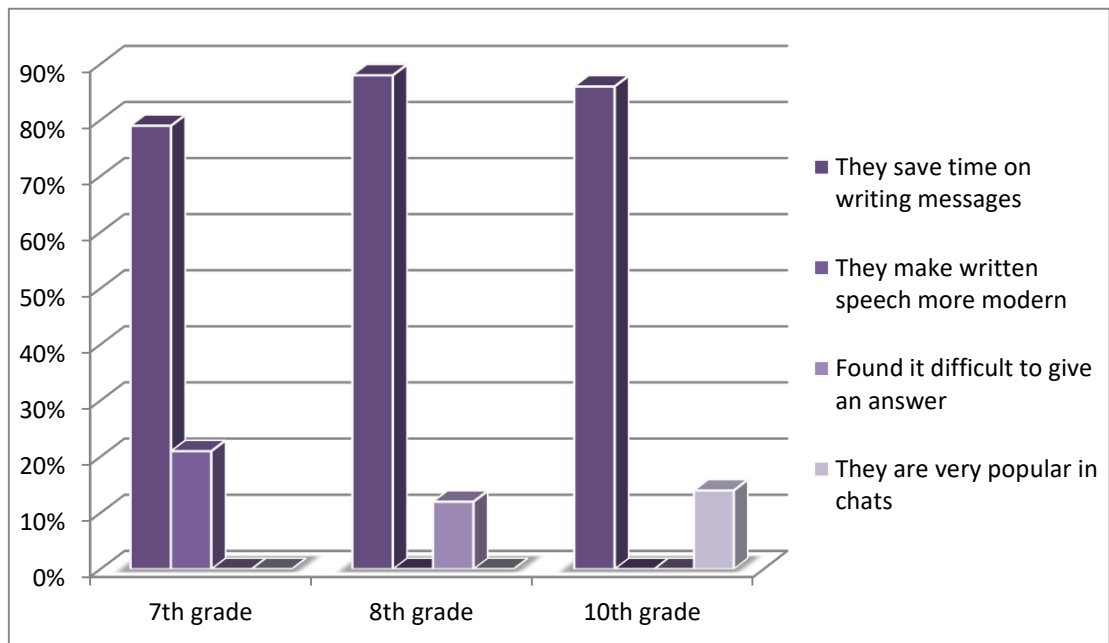
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APPENDIX

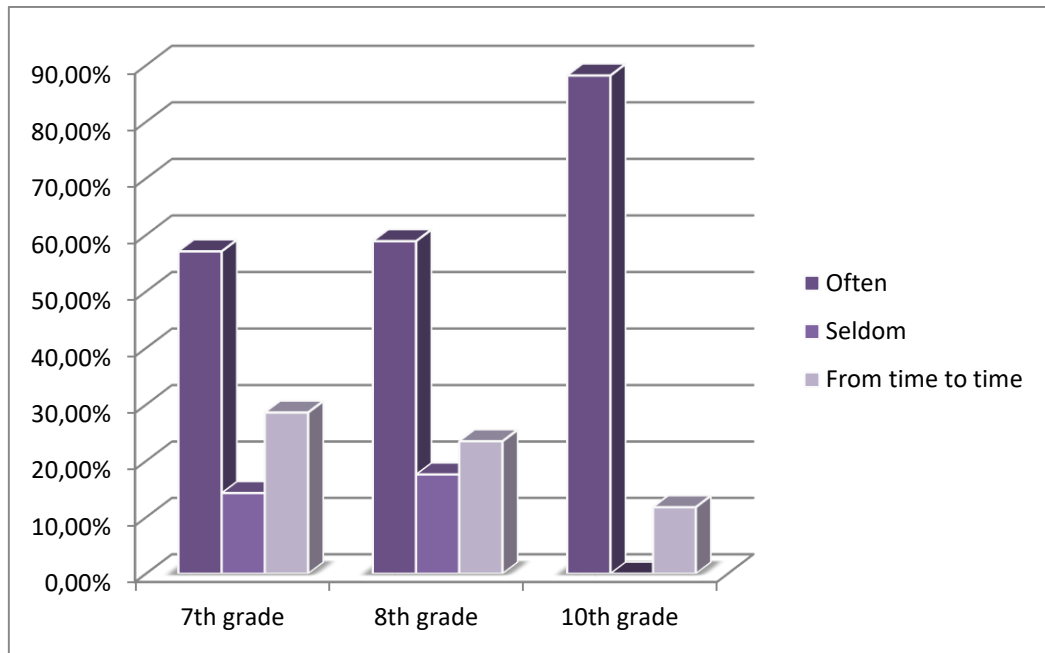
1. Do you communicate with English-speaking people on the Internet?



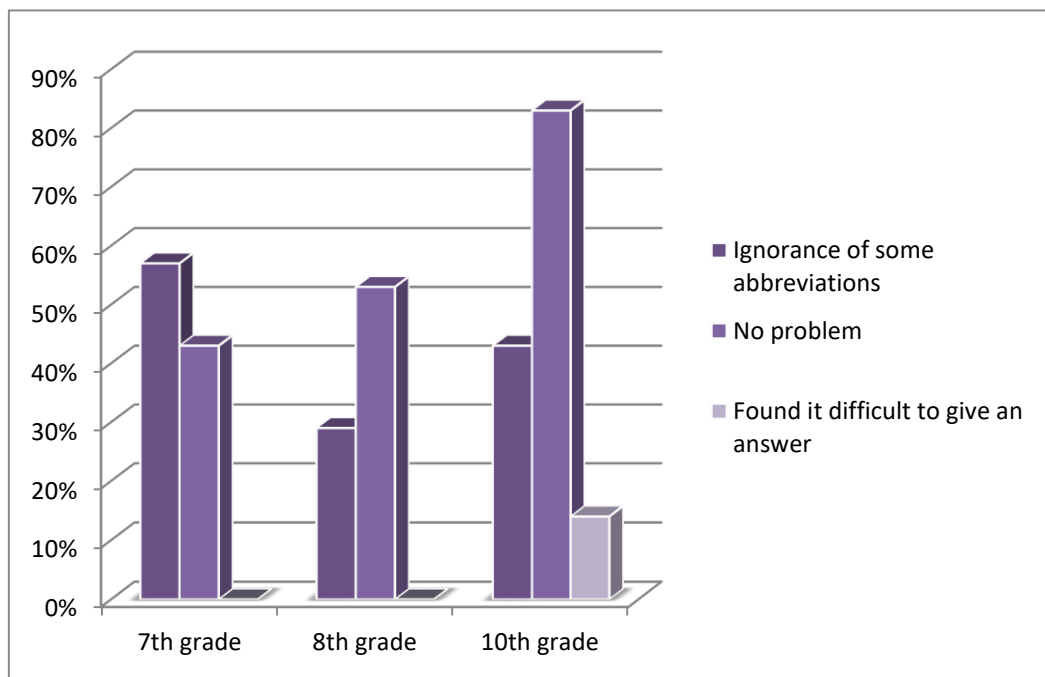
2. Why do we need English abbreviations on the Internet?

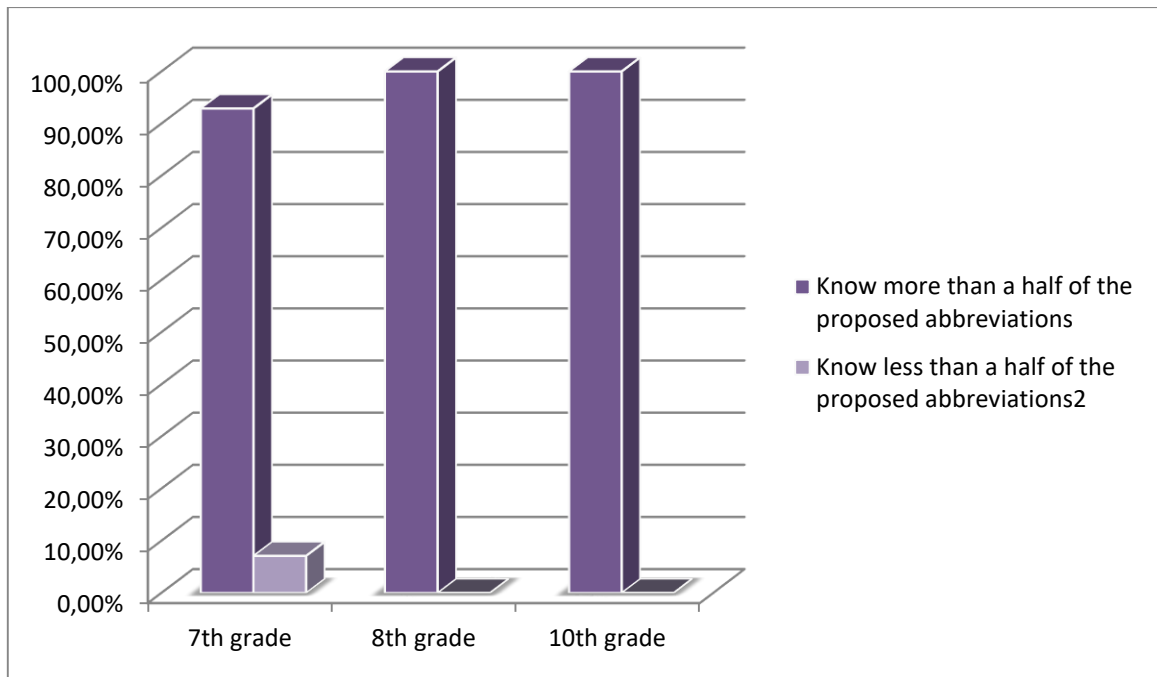


3. Do you use English abbreviations on the Internet?



4. What problems do you have with understanding of English abbreviations on the Internet?





The lists of English abbreviations:

10X	<i>(Thanks)</i>
1K	
2	<i>(to)</i>
4	<i>(for)</i>
4GET	<i>(forget)</i>
ADDY	<i>(Address)</i>
ADN	
AFAIK	<i>(As far as I know)</i>
AFK	<i>(Away from the keyboard)</i>
AIR (AFAIR)	<i>(As (Far As) I Remember)</i>
AKA	<i>(Also known as)</i>
ANY1	<i>(Any one)</i>
ASAP	<i>(As soon as possible)</i>
ATM	<i>(At the moment)</i>
BBIAF	<i>(Be back in a few minutes)</i>
BBIAH	<i>(Be back in an hour)</i>
BBIAM	<i>(Be back in a minute)</i>
BBIAS	<i>(Be back in a second)</i>
BBL	<i>(I'll be back later)</i>
BBS	<i>(Be back soon)</i>
BE4	<i>(Before)</i>
BF	<i>(Boyfriend)</i>
BFN	<i>(bye for now)</i>
BRB	<i>(I'll be right back)</i>
BTW	<i>(By the way)</i>
C	<i>(See)</i>
CU	<i>(See you)</i>
CUL	<i>(See you later)</i>
DL	<i>Download</i>
F2F	<i>(Face to face)</i>
FAQ	<i>(Frequently asked questions)</i>
FW	<i>(Freeware)</i>
FWIN	<i>(For what it's worth?)</i>
FYI	<i>(For your information)</i>
GF	<i>(Girlfriend)</i>
GR8	<i>(Great)</i>
GTG	<i>(I got to go)</i>
H8	<i>(Hate)</i>
HSIK	<i>(How should I know)</i>
HTH	<i>(Hope this help)</i>
IAE	<i>(In any event)</i>
IC	<i>(I see)</i>
IDK	<i>(I don' t know)</i>
IMCO	<i>(In my considered opinion)</i>
IMHO	<i>(In my humble opinion), Имхо</i>
IMNSHO	<i>(In my not so humble opinion)</i>
IMO	<i>(In my opinion)</i>
INAL	<i>(I'm not a lawyer)</i>
IOW	<i>(In other words)</i>
IRL	<i>(In the real life)</i>

JFYI	<i>(Just for your information)</i>
JK	<i>(Just kidding)</i>
KISS	<i>(Keep it simple, stupid)</i>
L8R	<i>(Later)</i>
LOL	<i>(Laughing Out Loud)</i>
LTNS	<i>(Long time no see)</i>
LTNT	<i>(Long time no type)</i>
ME2	<i>(Me too)</i>
MHO	<i>(My humble opinion)</i>
MPOV	<i>(My point of view)</i>
NBD	<i>(No big deal)</i>
NO1	<i>(No one)</i>
NOYB	<i>(None of your business)</i>
NP	<i>(No problems)</i>
OIC	<i>(Oh, I see)</i>
OOH	<i>(Out of hands)</i>
OTOH	<i>(On the other hand)</i>
PMJI	<i>(Pardon my jumping in)</i>
POV	<i>(Point of view)</i>
PPL	<i>(People)</i>
RL	<i>(Real life)</i>
ROFL	<i>(Rolling on the floor laughing)</i>
RSN	<i>(Real soon now)</i>
RTFAQ	<i>(Read the FAQ)</i>
SF	<i>(Science fiction)</i>
SMT	<i>(Something)</i>
SNAFU	<i>(situation normal, all fixed up)</i>
SUP	<i>(What's up)</i>
SW	<i>(Shareware)</i>
SYSOP	<i>(System operator)</i>
TANJ	<i>(There ain't justice)</i>
TFHAOT	<i>(Thank for help ahead of time)</i>
THX	<i>(Thanks)</i>
TIA	<i>(Thanks in advance)</i>
TTBOMK	<i>(To the best of my knowledge)</i>
TTFN	<i>(Ta ta for now)</i>
TTYL	<i>(Talk to you later)</i>
U	<i>(You)</i>
U2	<i>(You too)</i>
UC	<i>(You see)</i>
W8	<i>(Wait)</i>
WB	<i>(Welcome back)</i>
WBR	<i>(With best regards)</i>
WBW	<i>(With best wishes)</i>
WOA	<i>(Work of art)</i>
WOW	
WRT	<i>With respect to</i>
WTH	<i>What the hell</i>
WYSIWYG	<i>What You See Is What You Get</i>

Список 2:

& = and

0 = nothing

2 = two, to, too

2DAY = today

2MORO / 2MROW = tomorrow

2NITE / 2NYT = tonight

2U = to you

4U = for you

4E = forever

AFAIK= as far as I know

ASAP = as soon as possible

ATB = all the best

B = to be

B4 = before

B4N = bye for now

BAU = business as usual

BBL = to be back later

BC = because

BF = boyfriend

BK = back

BRB = to be right back

BRO = brother

BT = but

BTW = by the way

C = to see

CIAO = goodbye

COS / CUZ = because

CUL8R = call you later / see you later

CUL = see you later

CWOT = complete waste of time

D8 = date

DNR = dinner

EOD = end of debate

EZ = easy

F2F / FTF = face to face

F8 = fate

FYI = for your information

GF = girlfriend

GMTA = great minds think alike

GR8 = great

GTG = got to go

HAND = have a nice day

HB2U = happy birthday to you

HOLS = holidays

HRU = how are you

HV = to have

ICBW = it could be worse

IDK = I don't know

IDTS = I don't think so

ILU / Luv U = I love you

IMHO = in my humble opinion

IYKWIM = if you know what I mean

JK = just kidding

KDS = kids

KIT = to keep in touch

KOTC = kiss on the cheek

L8 = late

L8R = later

LOL = laughing out loud

LSKOL = long slow kiss on the lips

LTNS = long time no see

Luv U2 = I love you too

M8 = mate

MON = the middle of nowhere

MSG = message

MTE = my thoughts exactly

MU = I miss you

MUSM = I miss you so much

MYOB = mind your own business

N2S = needless to say

NE1 = anyone

NO1 = no one

NP = no problem

OIC = oh, I see

PC&QT — peace and quiet

PCM = please call me

PLS = please

PS = parents

QT = cutie

R = are

ROFL / ROTFL = rolling of the floor laughing

RUOK = are you ok?

SIS = sister

SKOOL = school

SMMR = summer

SOB = stressed out bad

SOM1 = someone

TGIF = thank God it's Friday

THX = thanks

THNQ = thank you

TTYL = talk to you later

U = you

WAN2 = to want to

WKND = weekend

WR = were

WUCIWUG = what you see is what you get

X = kiss

XLNT = excellent

XOXO = hugs and kisses

YR = your / you're

ZZZ.. = to sleep