

Worried about your child
texting too much?

It's not as bad as you think

Your child probably uses textisms when texting... but
what are they?



Textisms as explained in the study:

- Shortening of words
- Abbreviations
- Contractions
- Usage of English words*
- Slang
- Neologisms
- Dutch accent stylizations*

Examples of Textisms

- LOL = laughing out loud
- can't = can not
- Using “hey” instead of hello
- Slang words, ex. in English: cap, ate



How did the study find this data?

- 55 dutch students
- Group 1 - Given stimulus to use textisms by seeing them on another phone
- Group 2 - Asked how to respond, in texts, to certain scenarios
- More words omitted in texts correlated to higher scores on a grammar task

What does the study show?



★ Higher usage of
textisms, specifically
omissions, was
correlated with higher
grammar scores

These results actually suggest that texting does not have a negative impact on literacy! Children know the language well enough to apply different forms of it depending on the context.

However, correlation does NOT equal causation. The results of this study show correlation values, not a direct linkage between textisms and literacy skills. Consider the data food for thought!

Journal link

van Dijk, C. N., van Witteloostuijn, M., Vasić, N., Avrutin, S., & Blom, E. (2016). The Influence of Texting Language on Grammar and Executive Functions in Primary School Children. PLOS ONE, 11(3), e0152409. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0152409>