



### A Parent's Guide to Understanding Online Acronyms

#### **INSTANT MESSAGING WARNING SIGNS**

**PIR - Parent in room**

**POS - Parent over shoulder**

**PRW - Parents are watching**

You'll see even more variations on these three ("MOS" or "DOS," depending on which parent you are), but they're all warning signs that your child is sending to her friend. She's telling her friend to step lightly, or to halt the conversation altogether. Exactly what she's trying to hide may be difficult to ascertain. She could be talking to a friend who frequently uses profanity, or perhaps they're gossiping about the latest classroom love triangle.

#### **A/S/L - Age/Sex/Location**

"A/S/L" is one of the oldest chat abbreviations. It's efficient, boiling down a trio of questions into just three letters. Why should this send up a red flag if you see it on your child's screen? Because merely asking it indicates that your child is chatting with a stranger, and strangers aren't necessarily being honest about their A, S, or L. One of the fun things about the Internet is that it allows people to make connections they wouldn't otherwise have. But if your child is meeting people online, it's important for you to have a conversation with him about online safety.

**RL - Real life**

**IRL - In real life**

**LMIRL - Let's meet in real life**

Like "A/S/L," "LMIRL" indicates that your child is talking to a stranger. In this case, it's clear that your child intends to meet up with this person offline. Here's a situation where you may need to put aside concerns about invading your child's privacy and ask, point-blank, whom he's talking to.

#### **OTHER INTERNET LINGO**

AAK - Asleep at the keyboard

AAR8 - At any rate

AFAIK - As far as I know

AFK - Away from keyboard

ASAP - As soon as possible

ATM - At the moment

ATW - Around the web

B - Back

B4N - Bye for now

BBS - Be back soon

BC - Because

BF - Boyfriend

BFF - Best friend forever

BFN - Bye for now

BG - Big grin  
BMG - Be my guest  
BOTOH - But on the other hand  
BRB - Be right back  
BTDT - Been there, done that  
BTW - By the way

CD9 - Code 9: Parents nearby  
CSL - Can't stop laughing  
COZ - Because  
CU - See you  
CUL or CUL8R - See you later

DQMOT - Don't quote me on this

EZ - Easy  
EG - Evil grin

F2F - Face to face  
FAQ - Frequently asked questions  
FWIW - For what it's worth  
FYI - For your information

G2G - Got to go  
GAL - Get a life  
GF - Girlfriend  
GG - Gotta go  
GGN - Gotta go now  
GL - Good luck  
GR8 - Great  
GTG - Got to go  
GW - Good work

H8 - Hate  
HAK - Hugs and kisses

IC - I see  
IDC - I don't care  
IDK - I don't know  
ILY - I love you  
IM - Instant message  
IMHO - In my humble opinion  
IMNSHO - In my not so humble opinion  
IMO - In my opinion  
IOW - In other words

JK - Just kidding

K - Okay

L8 - Late  
L8R - Later  
LOL - Laughing out loud

MIRL - Meet in real life  
MorF - Male or female

NE - Any  
NBD - No big deal  
NP - No problem

OIC - Oh, I see  
OMG - Oh my God  
OTP - On the phone

P911 - Parent emergency  
PAW - Parents are watching  
PLS - Please  
PLZ - Please  
POV - Point of view

Q - Question

ROFL - Rolling on floor laughing  
ROTFL - Rolling on the floor laughing  
RUOK - Are you okay?

SIT - Stay in touch  
SOZ - Sorry  
SYS - See you soon  
S2R - Send to receive

TAFN - That's all for now  
TBH - To be honest  
THX - Thanks  
TTFN - Ta ta for now  
TTYL - Talk to you later  
TY - Thank you

U - You  
U2 - You too

WE - Whatever  
WTG - Way to go  
WTH - What the hell  
WU - What's up?

XO - Hugs and kisses

Y - Why?  
YT - You there?