



**Melissa Kaplan's**  
**Herp Care Collection**  
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# Emoticons and Abbreviations (Smileys)

How to make sense of the bizarre spelling and punctuation you sometimes see online.

Compiled and occasionally written by Melissa Kaplan, 1995

While the medium is great, the message is sometimes missed. Jokes are taken seriously, sarcasm read where none was meant, etc. For those of you not already familiar with the host of smileys (also called emoticons) and abbreviations commonly encountered in posts, chats and email, here they are.

## Slang, Smileys & Abbreviation, & Glossary Resources at Anapsid.org:

[General Smileys](#)

[Celebrity Smileys](#)

[Abbreviations used in Email & Posts](#)

[Internet Abbreviations, Terms, and Acronyms](#)

[Herp & Related Biology & Reproductive Terms  
Glossaries](#)

[Lyme & Tickborne Diseases Glossary](#)

[Additional Slang & Abbreviation Translation Resources  
on the 'Net](#)

## General Smileys

**If you are having trouble reading the smileys, just tilt your head to the left!**

:) or :-)	Smile
^_^	Delighted; happy face
O:) or O:-)	Smiling angel
:D or :-D	Big, toothy smile
}:> or }:->	Devilish smile

:X or :-X	Lips are sealed
;) or ;-)	Wink
:( or :-(	Frown
:C or :-C	Big frown / Grumpy
:'( or :'-(	Crying
:-/	Sarcasm
:> or :->	Big grin
:p or :-p	Sticking out tongue
:* or :-*	Kiss
:o or :-o	Surprise; outcry
:O or :-O	Scream
:V or :-V	Talking; yakking
8) or 8-)	Smiley with glasses; author wears glasses
:o	Oooooohhh noooooo!
O_O	Shocked; surprised; bug face
O_o	Confused face
<_<	Disappointed; ashamed; upset face
^-^	Equivalent to latter

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## Celebrity Smileys

@;^[]	Elvis
*^(:')	Frosty the Snowman
\8-]	F.D.R.
7:-)	Ronald Regan
/:-)	Gumby
@@@@@:)	Marge Simpson
=):-)=	Abe Lincoln
[8-]	Frankenstein
===:-D	Don King

%^>(	Picasso cube-i-con
+-(:-)	The Pope
:-)X	Senator Paul Simon

## Abbreviations Used In Email and Posts

**Abbreviations are usually typed in all capital letters, but may be typed in lower case in a hurry or when using the Shift or Caps Lock key is difficult for the typist.**

AAMOF	as a matter of fact
ADN	any day now
AFAIA	as far as I'm aware
AFAIC	as far as I'm concerned
AFAIK	as far as I know
AFK	away from keyboard
ASAP	as soon as possible
ATSL	along the same line
AS	another subject
BAK	back at keyboard
BBD	basically brain dead
BBL	be back later
BCNU	be seeing you
bf	boyfriend
BFN	bye for now
BRB	be right back (when momentarily leaving a chat )
BTT	back to topic (on email lists, message boards) back to top (to keep subject from ageing off a message board, a use rather frowned upon)
BTW	by the way
CU	see you (as in "CU 2morrow!")
CUL	see you later (or CUL8R)
DEB	don't even bother
DGT	don't go there

DH	dear heart (or husband)
DIK	damned if I know
EM(F)BI	excuse me (for) butting in
EOM	End of Message
FUBAR	fouled up beyond all recognition
FWIW	for what it's worth
FYATHYRIO	having to do with a self-directed, physically impossible action, and a horse
<g>	grinning; grin. The comments preceeding or following <g> are meant humorously or to be taken with a grain of salt.
GD&R, <gdr>	grinning, ducking and running
gf	girlfriend
GIWIST	gee, I wish I'd said that
GMTA	great minds think alike
HTH	hope this helps!
IC	I see
IDK	I don't know
IIRC	if I recall correctly
ITSFWI	if the shoe fits, wear it
IMO	in my opinion
IMCO	in my considered opinion
IMHO	in my humble opinion
IMNSHO	in my not so humble opinion
IOW	in other words
IRL	in real life (as opposed to your online life!)
JK	just kidding
JP	just playing
KHYF	know how you feel
KWIM	know what I mean?
L8r	later
LAB&TYD	life's a bitch & then you die
LTNT	long time, no type

LOL	laughing out loud
NBD	no big deal
NOYL	not on your life
NP, np	no problem
NTYMI	now that you mention it
OIC	oh, I see!
OOTQ	out of the question
OT	off topic
OTOH	on the other hand
OTTOMH	off the top of my head
PITA	pain in the nether regions
PTB	(the) powers that be
POV	point of view
RABNC	read and acknowledged, but no comment
RSN	real soon now
RO(T)FL	rolling on (the) floor, laughing
ROFLMAO	rolling on floor, laughing my --- off
ROTFLOLSTC	rolling on the floor, laughing out loud - scared the cat!
RTFM	read the flippin' manual
SEP	someone else's problem
SNAFU	situation normal, all fouled up
STFU	shut the **** up
SO	significant other
SOW	speaking of which
TANJ	there ain't no justice
TANSTASQ	there ain't no such thing as a stupid question
TCGOFE	this could go on for ever!
TEOTWAWKI	the end of the world as we know it
TFTHAOT	thanks for the help ahead of time
TIA	thanks in advance
tl;dnr	too long; did not read

TOBAL	there oughta be a law
TOBG	this oughta be good
TPTB	the powers that be
TTBOMK	to the best of my knowledge
TTFN	ta-ta for now!
TTUL	talk to you later
TYVM	thank you very much
WB	welcome back!
WRT	with regards to
WYSIWYG	what you see is what you get
WTG	way to go!
YGLT	you're gonna love this
YMMV	your mileage may vary (= your experience may differ)

## Internet Abbreviations and Acronyms

**The following TLAs (three letter acronyms; three-letter abbreviations) you will see used in correspondence, online guides, search engines, and just about anyplace that people are talking or writing about the Internet.**

AIM	<a href="#">AOL Instant Messenger</a> . Instant messaging for those who don't have an AOL account, this instant messenger allows you to use the same program to talk with other AIM users and your friends on AOL.
Bandwidth	While the Internet - newsgroups, web browsing and email - seem free and (usually) magically fast to us, in fact it takes quite a bit to move every bit of code from one computer to another. The busier or more crowded with code the systems are, the slower the transmission speed. The slower the speed, the longer it takes to get information, and the Information Superhighway becomes like trying to drive on a dusty, dirt road pitted with potholes and littered with broken glass at midnight. Slow. Since many people have to pay for every minute that they are online, or have very limited online time every month, it can get very expensive waiting for files and mail to be retrieved. Doing things that increases the amount of code without providing any more information (like superhuge graphics files, copying the last five letters or posts -in full- in your email, using lots of cute animated and static graphic doodads at your site) quite literally, for most people, is a waste of bandwidth.
Email	Electronic mail: mail sent over the internet or within a service provider to other members of that provider.
Email	Discussion group based on a particular subject (e.g.

Discussion List (EDL)	IguanaMail, POGONA). Unlike newsgroups, one must actively subscribe to an email list to join. For further information, please see the <a href="#">Email Discussion Lists</a> article.
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions: a document, usually stored online at a website, that answers frequently asked questions about a particular subject. There are FAQs on animal care, as well as FAQs for newsgroups, email lists, etc. When you join an email list, the Welcome letter you get is a sort of FAQ.
ICQ	"I Seek You" <b>ICQ</b> : a program you can use to send instant messages or chat with others who also have ICQ accounts.
Instant Message	Instant messages can be sent between AOL members. Now, people who don't have AOL accounts can download (free) <a href="#">AOL Instant Messenger</a> and communicate instantly with anyone who has AIM and your friends on AOL.
IRC	<a href="#">Internet Relay Chat</a> : software to access the various internet chat rooms
ISP	Internet Service Provider: a company that provides, generally for a monthly fee, email accounts and access to the World Wide Web and newsgroups. Companies like AOL and Compuserve are commercial service providers.
Newbie	Newcomer: new to the Internet; new to the subject (e.g., a new iguana owner). Newbies are easily recognized in EDLs and newsgroups because they post the most basic of questions, showing that they haven't taken the time to do some background research on their own. Questions like, "I just got a dog. How do I take care of it?" is a good example, as are questions like, "Tell me everything there is to know about -----!" While many people are patient with newbies, remembering what it was like when they were new, many are not. You can put some mileage on your newbie outfit by doing some research first, before posting such questions. Every Welcome letter to an EDL and newsgroup FAQ has links to websites where you will find information to answer your initial questions, and often links to more advanced information, too. That way, you can post specific questions that will, er, net you more helpful, productive responses. For more information, see <a href="#">The Art of Getting Help</a> , part of my <a href="#">Researching Herp Information</a> article.
Newsgroup Usegroup	The original Internet forums where people can post questions, answers and comments on a wide variety of subject. There are over 40,000 groups, sorted by subject (e.g., the group called <a href="#">rec.pets.herp</a> is in Recreation, subcategory Pets, subcategory Herps). There are rules of conducts and FAQs for most groups. You can use your newsgroup software (often included with your email software or your web browser software) to get a full list of groups, or you can look for them through a search engine's listing of groups, such as <a href="#">Yahoo's</a> .
Signal:Noise	Signal-to-Noise Ratio: "Signal" means information. "Noise" is just chatter that eats up bandwidth, can be very annoying if it

	goes on too long, and literally costs people money if they have to pay to retrieve email, newsgroups and archived digests that contain more noise than signal. If you really need to show support for someone's statement or position and want to post an "attagirl!" or "Yeah! I agree completely!" type post, don't. Instead of posting it where thousands of people are going to be annoyed at you for wasting their time, email it privately to the individual.
Troll	A person who posts to a list or newsgroup with the sole intention of starting an argument or inflaming the group. Most email lists will terminate a person who trolls more than once.
URL	Universal Resource Locator: the unique address for each webpage (e.g., <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a> is the URL for the Los Angeles Times web site).
WWW	World Wide Web: an inclusive term sometimes used to refer to websites in general, or more broadly used to encompass websites, email and newsgroups, and other forms of instant electronic communications over the Internet using personal computers.
X-posting	Cross-posting to more than one email list or newsgroup. this is generally frowned upon as the responses are also x-posted to all groups and generally are wildly off-topic and start ticking a whole lot of people off.

## Additional Slang & Abbreviations Resources

These smileys, emoticons, abbreviations and acronyms just scratch the surface of what is out there and being used, and new ones come into common usage as time goes on. This compilation isn't meant to be the repository of every single abbreviation out there, just ones most people find most useful or are likely to come across. For more abbreviations and slang used in email, chats, IMs and text messaging, check out the following sites:

[AcronymFinder.com](http://AcronymFinder.com)  
[Jupiter Parents](http://JupiterParents.com)  
[NoSlang.com](http://NoSlang.com)  
[Sharpened Glossary](http://SharpenedGlossary.com)  
[Teen Angels](http://TeenAngels.com)

[www.anapsid.org/internet/smileys.html](http://www.anapsid.org/internet/smileys.html)

*Need to update a veterinary or herp society/rescue listing?*

*Can't find a vet on my site? Check out these other sites.*

<a href="#">Amphibians</a>	<a href="#">Conservation</a>	<a href="#">Health</a>	<a href="#">Lizards</a>	<a href="#">Resources</a>
<a href="#">Behavior</a>	<a href="#">Crocodilians</a>	<a href="#">Herpetology</a>	<a href="#">Parent/Teacher</a>	<a href="#">Snakes</a>
<a href="#">Captivity</a>	<a href="#">Education</a>	<a href="#">Humor</a>	<a href="#">Pet Trade</a>	<a href="#">Societies/Rescues</a>



<a href="#">Chelonians</a>	<a href="#">Food/Feeding</a>	<a href="#">Invertebrates</a>	<a href="#">Plants</a>	<a href="#">Using Internet</a>
<a href="#">Clean/Disinfect</a>	<a href="#">Green Iguanas &amp; <i>Cyclura</i></a>	<a href="#">Kids</a>	<a href="#">Prey</a>	<a href="#">Veterinarians</a>
<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">About Melissa Kaplan</a>	<a href="#">CND</a>	<a href="#">Lyme Disease</a>	<a href="#">Zoonoses</a>
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