

talk lk u mean it

LL OF MY
BOOKS



EE PDFS



of the Year 2016



I DONT KNOW WHO YOU ARE



AND THEN



SEE A GRIZZLY
AY DEAD. IF YOU
K BEAR, RUN AWAY.



SEE A POLAR BEAR,
OTTLE OF COCA COLA

MICROWAVING AT MIDNIGHT
WHEN EVERYONE IS ASLEEP



OPENS IT WITH ONE SECOND
LEFT SO IT DOESN'T BEEP

SHAGGY AND SCOOBY, YO
SEARCH THE BASEMENT FOR C



DAPHNE, VELMA AND I WI
TAKE THE UPSTAIRS BEDRO

THESE
AVORS



OLD PEOPLE AT WEDDINGS
ALWAYS POKE ME AND SAY
"YOU'RE NEXT."



DAT LOOK WHEN SHE



3 THAT MEME-



AN'T GET FIRED
U DONT HAVE A JO

I SAYS TO HER, I SAYS,
DIT YOUR NOSE.

PUT 5 DOLLARS IN
POCKET
PULL OUT 10

WHY ISN'T ANYONE
IVING ME ATTEN

SHOUTING "FAKE NEWS"
IS JUST ANOTHER WAY
OF SAYING "I'M TOO STUPID"

WHAT THE HECK IS
AND WHY AM I ONE

U
CLUES

ILL
DOM

ORANGE
IS THE NEW BLACK

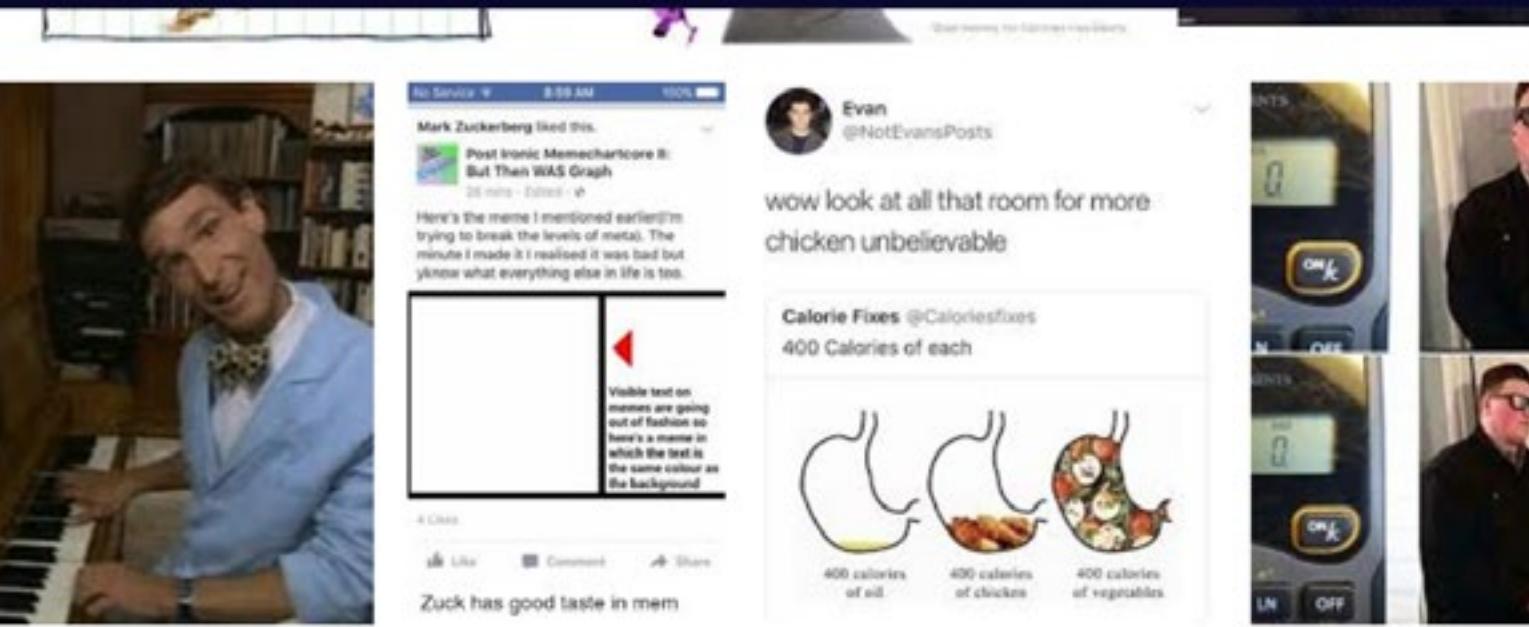
WHEN I BECOME PRESIDENT,
I'M GOING TO BAN EVERY POKEMON
DOES MY HAIR LOOK GOOD? THEY'RE
TAKING PICTURES WITH THEIR CELL PHONES

YOU'RE
DON'T SUGAR
CAUSE YOU'LL EAT

MAKER A LIFE IMPRISONME

JUST PUTIN

HAPPY FR



at 10:15 AM · 150% ·

Mark Zuckerberg liked this.
Post Ironic Memechartcore II:
But Then WAS Graph
28 mins · Edited · 4h

Here's the meme I mentioned earlier (I'm trying to break the levels of meta). The minute I made it I realised it was bad but you know what everything else in life is too.

Visible text on memes are going out of fashion so here's a meme in which the text is the same colour as the background

4 likes

4 Like Comment Share

Zuck has good taste in mem

on January 24, 2017 The most popular variation of it is "SpongeBob Squiggle Party". This has fast gained popularity in "memes" and now "memes" which have served over 3 million views! These terms of "memes" have been used to describe images that have been uploaded onto YouTube and have been created with "Squidgy" TrackID, including ones such as "Peanut" and "SpongeBob SquarePants".

more have started using and referring to those who create them as "memers". While many see it as an annoyance and consider "TrackID" as a "virus" others view it as an achievement and consider "TrackID" as a "phenomenon".

are referring "TrackID" as the "newest" or "the best" TrackID.

is a representation of the new and their members get a reply back to the

interaction with New-Nation

on the internet has adopted to regard TrackID as a symbol of pride. Many people are considering TrackID to be a like-like symbol that has been introduced with the culture and their images.

11



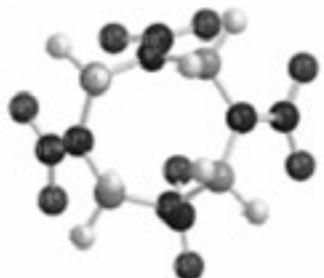
Profile Photo
Profile Details
About Me
Recent Posts
Profile
Facebook



sad

meme

rage



O(8) -0.31170
N(9) -0.42674
O(10) 0.61824
O(11) -0.30432
C(1) 0.01647
C(2) 0.01648
C(3) 0.01654
C(4) 0.01639
N(5) -0.48362
N(6) 0.61171
O(7) -0.31111

HMX Charge

O(16) -
N(17) -
O(19) -
O(20) -
H(27) -
H(28) -
H(29) -
H(30) -
H(31) -
H(32) -
H(33) -
H(34) -

AN INFO WARCS ARTICLE PROTECTING "FAKE MEMES"

LEVELS OF IRONY



Anonymous 04/19/18(Thu)17:23:43 No. 1717036

Anonymous 04/19/18(Thu)17:30:38 No. 1717037

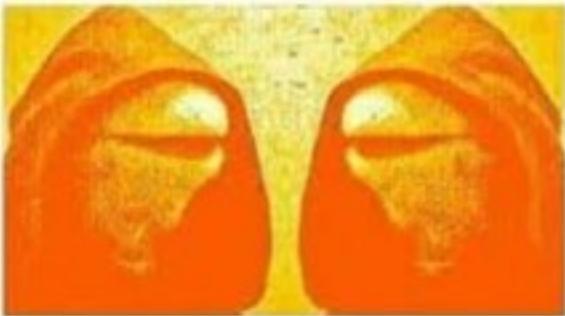
>>171703696 (You)
Are you a spic?

52351235.jpg (16 KB, 480x360) google yandex

5 hours ago >>171703202 (OP)



you: me
me to you: me to me:
Us to you: me me to us:
You to them: Us to me
Me



Just whipped u
dinner! Osteop



enoughed
You "not spic" moments are kind of
when your民族感 is so strong that you can't even
say "not spic" without it sounding like a
racist slur.

not-spic
I don't know but it's confusing me up

not-spic
I'm not a spic in a situation in which I am

not-spic
I'm not a spic

not-spic
"Not Spic"

cuck fam thicc zucc deadass

dumpster fire yuge woke hecky daddy

doggo succ bigly adulting another one

manterrupt so sad squad salty lit

Normie

Cancer

Edgelord

sabot

Meta-Memehead

Not sure if this is post-ironic

MODERNISM POST-M

this is a warning that this book is written
in webspeak, it's not impossible to read or
even that difficult but it turns some ppl off,
def give it a try but there is a glossary in the
back if ur struggling

contents

16 1337 speak

28 lolspeak

48 currently

120 glossary

126 citations

it's p obvious that the internet has become a rlly big part of society since its inception and w communication increasingly moving to digital platforms the way we speak has clearly evolved

but lk don't ppl talk abt it?? why???

let us delve -->

in this book im gonna take u thru the language of the internet it's by no means all encompassing n theres plenty more to say but this is some of the more important stuff

anyway the first thing to do when talkin web lingo is to look at the early examples of web speak

obv webspeak has existed as long as the internet has n it's constantly evolving but there r two distinct examples of a web language that predate modern webspeak n they r rlly important to consider when looking at the larger scope of language on the web

Actually Cool
An exclusionary way of making
otherwise lame people look hip
and down with the gang

Actually Cool
An exclusionary way of making
otherwise lame people look hip
and down with the gang

KED AT CLOCK



13:37

memegenerator.net

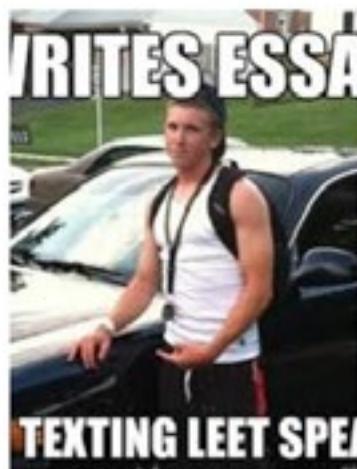


Because nothing screams
"Intelligence" quite like leet
speak

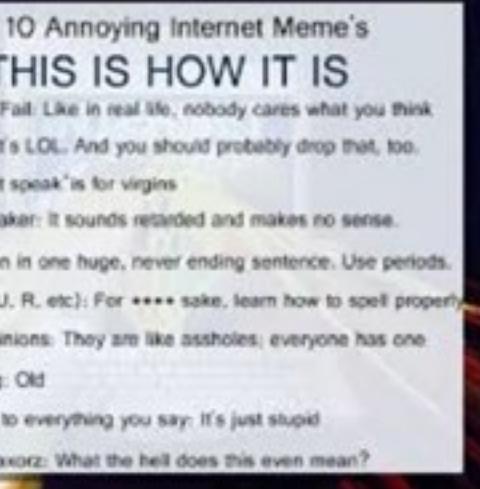


Blade: _____
another hand full of pills.

<3 - 7t08 - 4 f3n3 s3c0ndz 4g0 n34r -



337



don't b3
alarm3d,
this is not
a mistak3

The "Professional hacker"
starter pack:



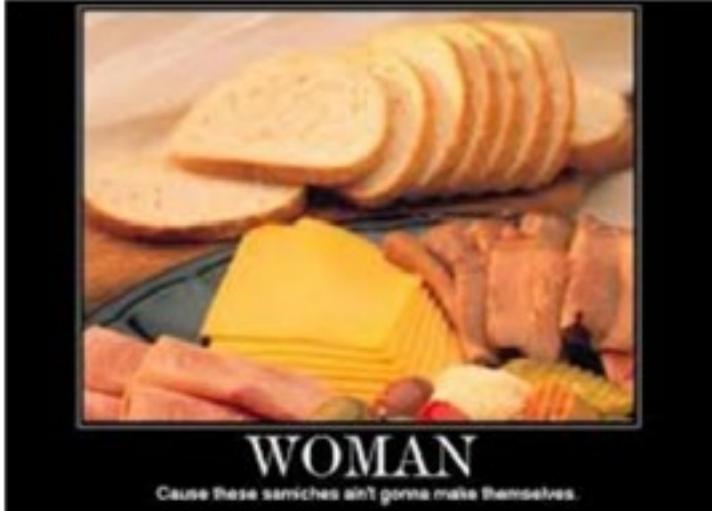
It's a phone number

NUVV OUR MINDS 1
DO 4MIZING THINGS!
1MPRESSIV3 THINGS!
IN TH3 B3G1NN1NG
17 WAS HARD BUT
NOW, ON TH15 LIN3
YOUR MIND IS
R3AD1NG 17
4U70M471C4LLY
W17H OUT 3V3N
TH1NKING 4B0U7 17,
B3 PROUD! ONLY
C3R741N P30PL3 C4N
B3 A 7H1C



Tr4nsl4tE
L33t Sp4k:
+H3L @ N3xampl3 Oph

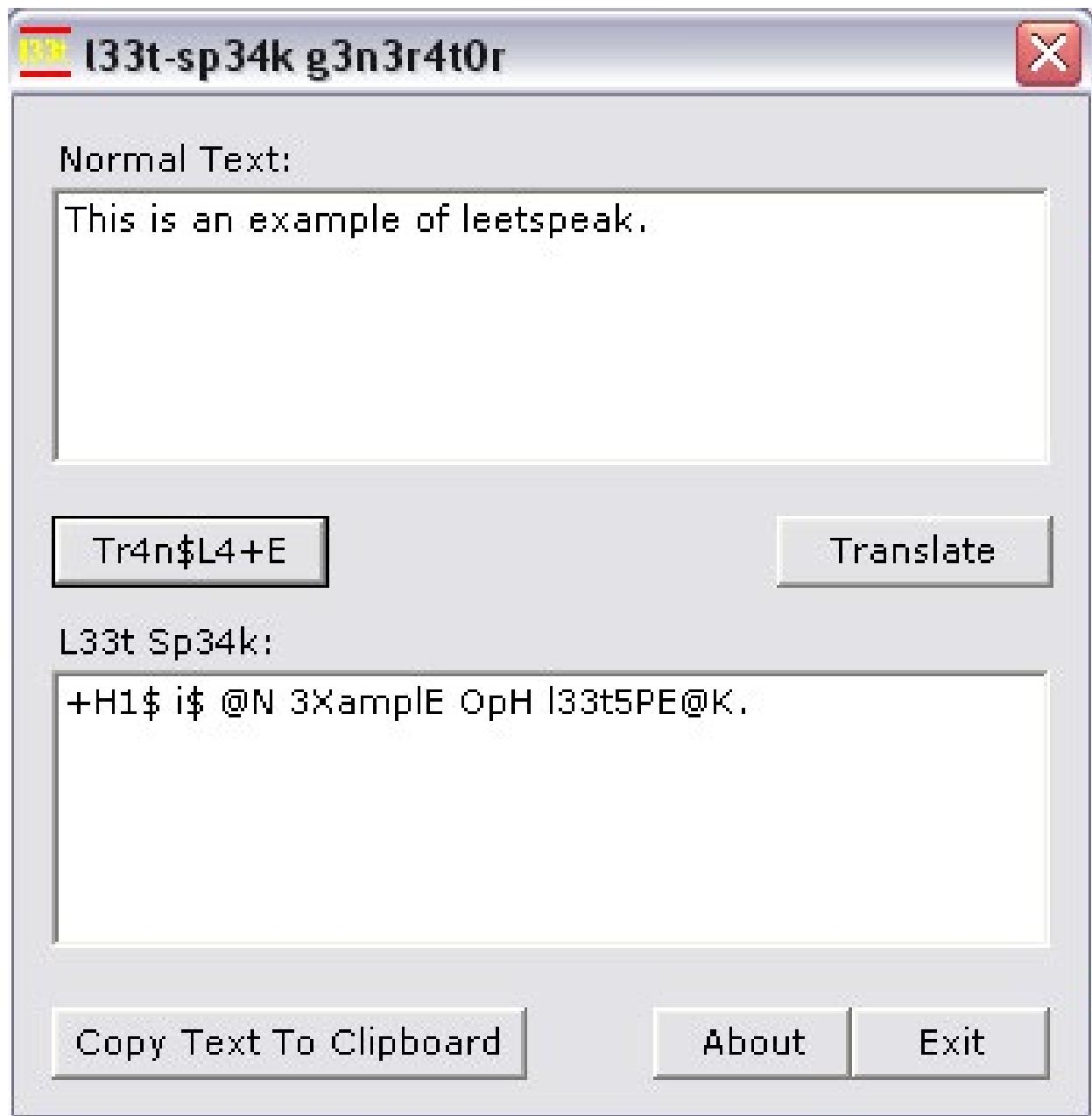
A white duck stands on a background composed of overlapping triangles in yellow, orange, and red. The duck is positioned centrally, facing right, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer.



My friend is
he was sm
a space be

A cartoon illustration of a man with a shocked or screaming expression, with his mouth wide open and eyes bulging. He has several small white dots on his forehead. Above him, the words "URGENT CARE" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below him, the text "Y U NO URGENT?" is written in a stylized, blocky font.

L33T SP34K
CH34T SH33T



example of leet speak translator

1337 speak

so leet speak aka 1337 speak started around the 80s on early chat rooms which were called bulletin board systems. the basic idea is replacing letters w numbers or other characters

it isn't confirmed but ppl think it came about as a way fr hackers to prevent their posts from being found thru keyword searches

it got popular in the 90s w online multiplayer games lk doom n took off from there

the idea is p straightforward but there were some grammar n phrase additions

grammar

the name leetspeak is a modified spelling of elite it often is represented as 1337 which appears in a lot of spaces on the web as an internet injoke



there were a bunch of phrase additions to the web lexicon these r the most important
-> pwn (own) which means to win at something hax0r (hacker) someone to be feared because of their skill n00b (newbie) beginner or poor player

letter dropping / adding patterns and abbreviations have always been integral to



lenny sucks

lenny suxxorz

lenny is t3h suxx0rz



101 13nny 15 73h 5uxx022

L0L L3[\][\]Y 15 T3H SUXX0R2

101 13|V|V7 15 73|-| 5(_)><><022

101 13|\\"|||\\"|`!5 +3|-| 5|_|%%0|27_

|_-|_- |_-[-|\\"||\\"|`!\$ `|)[-# \$|_|)()|/27_

|_-0\\$|_-3|\\"|/V\\$!5 7€(-) _/^- L|)()|0/2>_

707 |_-&|\\"|[\"]\\$!5 7&]-[\\$|_|%><0|^~/_

|_-0|_- |_-3|\\"|||\\"|`!5 73|-| 5(_)><><0|22

webspeak and leet is no different in fact it's basically the most important part of leet

it's letter substitution was fundamental to leet's grammar structure bc emphasis was usually indicated by how elaborate converted a sentence was

the following pages show some of the most common letter conversions in leet although

leet is a little bit b4 my time on the web bc im a Millennial so i didnt use computers until i was in middle school n by that time the web was in fully engulfed in the image macro style. that said leet still has ripples in web culture lk when i would go on pet websites (u will hear abt this later ok) items would often have references to leet either the word or the number version

this is not by any means all of them as mentioned creativity and illegibility was a major component to this

style it's also worth noting that certain letters having overlapping conversions which def makes translation more difficult and dependent on context



this is also the first time on the web where we see ‘teh’ the misspelling of ‘the’ being used (it was a big deal in lolspeak)

also common was the dropping of the ‘e’ in ‘-ed’ sometimes it would b replaced w an apostrophe instead lk owned becomes pwnd or pwn’d

new suffixes n new pairings started to surface which gave leet it’s well known sound

suffixes include ‘-ness’ ‘-age’ ‘-xor’ ex awesomeness pwnage haxor

also popular was replacing the long vowel sound for ‘o’ w 00 lk d00d (dude) or j00 (you)

A	aye	ci	^	@	ʌ	4	/ʌ	λ	z	ə
B	8	3	6	13	β]3				
C	(<	¢	sea	©	{	see			
D))	ð])	>	0	cl			
E	3	£	&	€	[-	ə				
F	=] =	}	ph	(=	ʃ				
G	6	9	&	gee	C-	(_+	jee	(Y,	cj	
H	-	#	-	-) - (:-:	X) - {	aych	
I	!	eye	1	i	3y3					
J	_	_ /		¿	< /	_)				
K	X	<	X	{						
L	1	7	_	£		1J	¬			
M	44	ℳ	V	em	v	Y	(V)	[V]	^^	/VVV\

N	\	~	/ΛΛ//	И	[N]	<\>	{\}	//	₪	₪₪
O	0	()	oh	[]	¤	Ω				
P	*	°	"	?	9	D	¶	7	þ	®
Q	0_	0,	(,)	<	¶	9	cue			
R	2	2	¤	^	~	z	®	.-	Я	/2
S	5	\$	z	es	§					
T	+	7	- -	1	¶¶	†				
U	_	Y3W	M	μ	()	□	\`	_	/_	
V	v	\\//	√							
W	\\\\\\\\	vv	'//	(n)	\x/	Щ	UU	JL	₩	ω
X	ecks	><	*){	ex	Ж)()			
Y	j	'/	'(¥	φ	Ψ	λ	_/_	Ч	
Z	2	~/_	≥	%	3	7_				





1337

L|l2 807|-|=|_|(|<|/\6 57|_|*!|)... 175 1337... 7|-3|23 15 /\0 13773|25 5/V 1337!!!!!!1!!1!

0100001001101001011011001100001011100100111001
01001100 00110011 00110011 00110111 00100000 01100010
01100101 01100110 01101111 01110010 01100101 00100000
01111100 01011111 00110011 00110011 00110111 00100000
01110111 01100001 01110011 00100000 00110001 00110011
00110011 00110111

demotivational poster mimicking the illegibility and iteration of leet

legacy

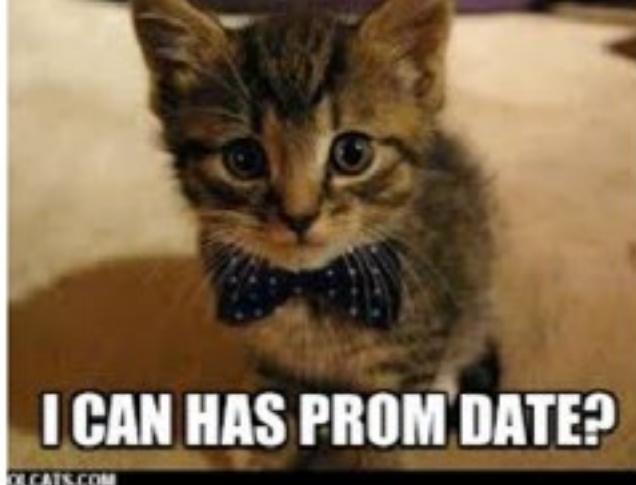


most of the phrases from leet speak have faded into the tapestry of the internet altho the trend of replacing letters fr numbers has come in n out of popularity since then

leet still appears in pop culture fr ex being used in titles fr the show ‘mr robot’ which is abt hackers

a few of the phrases in leet also were assimilated into webspeak probably most notably noob which is still a v popular term for a new player in a video game





I think those are...

if password is FAIL

JUST
ITY



lolspeak

lolspeak started in the mid 00s with the rise of the lolcat meme



it probably started on 4chan (lk most internet garbage) but it got rlly popular in 2007 after the website icanhaz.cheezburger was launched which was basically a huge collection of lolcat memes in fact it was so popular that there were a lot of offshoots lk i has a hotdog (a dog version)

humans have basically always added characterizations and stuff to animals (remember aesop) but this time it's on The Web

basically lolspeak is an imitation of how the internet collectively decided cats would speak in english m calka a professor from ohio university claims that “the closest approximation would be to imagine English put through an automatic translator into another language and then translated back and spelled phonetically”¹ but i would consider it closer an extension of babyspeak which is lk how ppl often talk to their pets

the early 2000s were also when memes shifted formats from the demotivational poster to the image macro style which was



basically the meme style where impact text would b placed on the top and bottom of the image



speaking of impact it probably became the most notorious typeface up until comic sans but we'll get into that later anyway impact is a rlly standardized typeface and its p thick which is gr8 fr legibility. it got popular as a meme font bc when advice animals and those types of memes were popular they were usually made on a generative website that would automatically place text n they just happened to have impact in their font options.² it happens to b really good fr memes bc it is extremely legible n has this casual connotation

Teh Ten Commanments of Ceiling Cat



- 1. I iz Ceiling Cat.**
- 2. Ceiling Cat comz 1st.**
- 3. Don't listen to Basement Cat.**
- 4. Don't use mai name to do evil things.**
- 5. Remember Caturday n keepz it lazy.**
- 6. Drive ur hooman az crazy as possibl.**
- 7. Don't kill! Unless hooman makez u dress up.**
- 8. Don't cheat n hukup wit crazy kitteh down teh street.**
- 9. Don't lai. Unless u has to.**
- 10. Don't steel! Just take stuff wiff out permishun an put it back b4 they kno.**



classic business cat meme

maybe the most iconic of this era was the advice animal which was actually a lot of diff memes but all of them featured an animal centered in the image offering specific kinds of advice ex includes advice dog who only gave bad advice insanity wolf who gave exaggerated angry advice and business cat whose content would usually b puns combining cats behavior n business

grammar



so lolspeak is a much broader language than leetspeak which was probs bc of its extended reach n association w popular memes

altho rlly fluid there is a clear grammar system n rules₃ which some ppl might consider prescriptivist but we will talk abt that later anyway lolspeak is above all a playful language it's rlly clear that the users kno what is proper english n what isnt n they take that idea to the extreme

lolspeak tends to ignore or invert traditional grammar structures most commonly the lack of agreement between pronouns and

auxiliary verbs (i can has vs i can have)⁴
users actively will choose the less grammatical one v popular swap was 'eated' instead of 'ate'



misspelling was a huge component of lolspeak bc it sort of makes sense that a mistranslation of english thru an cat would make mistakes 'the' is probs most common w 'teh' which was also used in leet but appears a lot more in lol but lol adds 'da' as well altho less frequently which adds variety and tonality to sentences

speaking of taken from leetspeak there were actually a bunch of things that made the jump between languages. altho not rlly used the same way the number fr letter

substitution also was present in lol altho this time it was more used as an intentional misspelling lk w00t which was a popular web interjection (wooh!)

similar to the number for letter replacements there r a number of v common letter fr letter replacements in lol. 'z' fr 's' is probs most common lk 'friendz' it also adds to the vocal tone of lolspeak lk even tho 'z' n 's' r pronounced similarly the tonality when reading a lolspeak phrase is diff. later in this book we'll get into how misspellings affect tonality



lolcats was actually probs the first memes i experienced as a young web user i remember rlly clearly being in middle school in my computer class scrolling page after page of icanhazcheezburger instead of practicing my typing skills lol at this point meme language didnt rlly enter my vocabulary i would say that didnt rlly happen until i was in late high school after joining the worst possible group of nerdy gamer boys lol they were rlly mean but at least i would have a basement to hang out in n watch some1 play video games anyway lolcats rlly were a great introduction to meme culture bc they were generally innocent esp since they were the immediate successor to the demotivational poster meme style which was rooted in the dry sarcasm n humor of monty python n nerd humor generally also lk who doesnt lk cute pics of cats doin dumb shit w a rlly bad cat pun on top

in mainstream webspeak but it's good to realize that the idea surfaced in lolspeak

where in leet capitalization was more stylistic in lol it rlly starts being seen as an emphatic expression altho in image macros impact text was usually in all caps so this was only really the case in more lengthy writing n non memes



it's p common to drop a 'g' in '-ing' to the point where it has a linguistic name (g-dropping). it's known fr bein a part of southern accents. lol also does this but it's a stylistic choice n doesn't add the apostrophe to the end of the word lk traditional writing

again lolspeak's grammar structure was

rlly based on the style of being ungrammatical lk to excess. double negatives, second suffixes (eateded), misspelling, etc were all commonly used. there was clearly a lot of fluidity but all fr the sake of rlly clearly bein ungrammatical



the original ceiling cat meme

OH HAI





R U MY FEETZ?

lolcat meme with standard humor

legacy



as lolspeak became more popular around 2007 ppl began contributing to a crowd-sourced translation of the bible altho a rather large undertaking it is basically completed⁵ a couple things of note:

there were a number of phrase replacements to fit in the lolcat continuum including 'ceiling cat' for god 'basement cat' for satan people are 'kittehs' gifts are 'cheezburgers' etc



it's also important to note the collectivized nature of this undertaking it really informs the culture of the internet that so many

Basement Cat

Ceiling Cat

VS.

The Final Battle for our souls begins

ceiling cat vs. basement cat meme



users were willing to contribute to an ultimately useless project (aside from the gratification n fun of doing it) we see this collective action in language development all the time but this is a really cool instance of a solid project

similar to a number of different memes lolspeak was implemented into a coding language called lolcode in 2007

HAI1.2



CAN HAS STDIO?

VISIBLE "HAI WORLD!"



KTHXBYE

so basically after the lolcat meme ended lolspeak also died but there are def ripples in web lingo since then

the doge meme which was made in 2013 but reached peak popularity in 2017 is probs the spiritual successor to lolspeak⁶

doge is kind of a dog version of lolspeak but instead it was tied to this specific photoset of shiba inu looking at the camera. ppl interpreted the dog as being incredulous or feigning surprise n the humor is basically dramatic sarcasm combined w the lolspeak staple of infantilizing how animals talk

doge also lifted the mixed grammar rules except it focused more on verbs, always

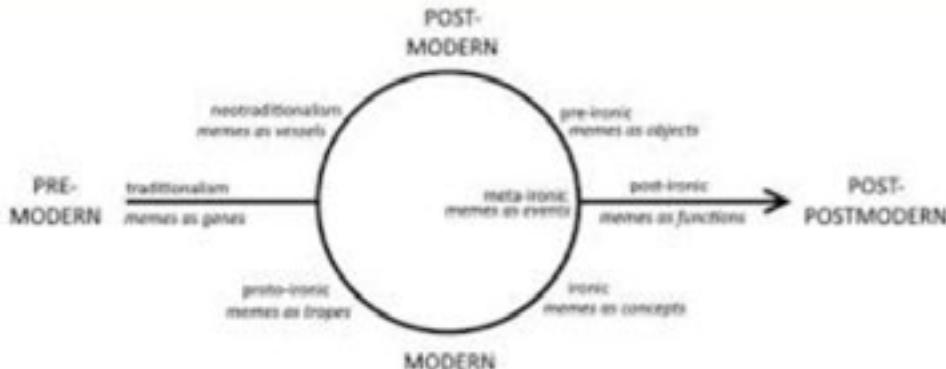
removing the action of ‘-ing’ and adding a modifier that doesn’t fit the verb lk ‘much run’ there was also a clear emphasis on being ungrammatical lk if a combos of modifier and verb werent mixed enough ppl would call it out as not real doge speak (this is maybe prescriptivism)

doge is also a big deal meme wise bc similar to when memes are adapted to coding languages in the last few years they also get turned into cryptocurrencies in this case dogecoin. doge was also commercialized for a while before the internet abandoned it (usually ppl hate it as soon as a meme starts being corporatized) 



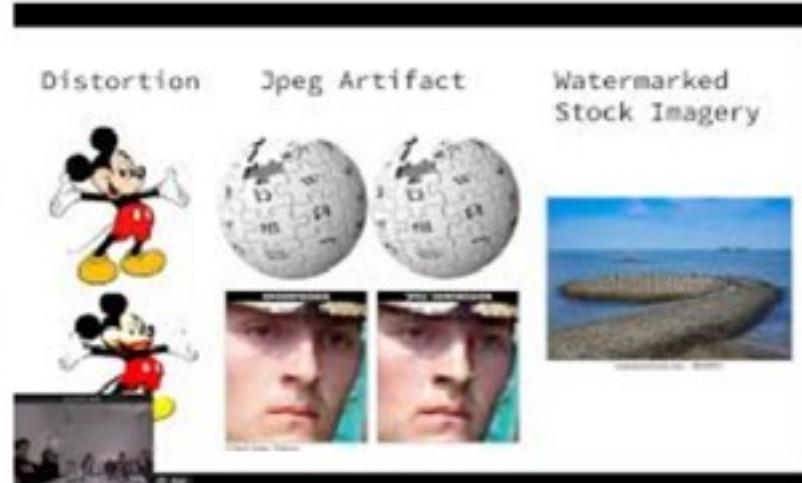
original doge meme

Do the thing, everybody sing

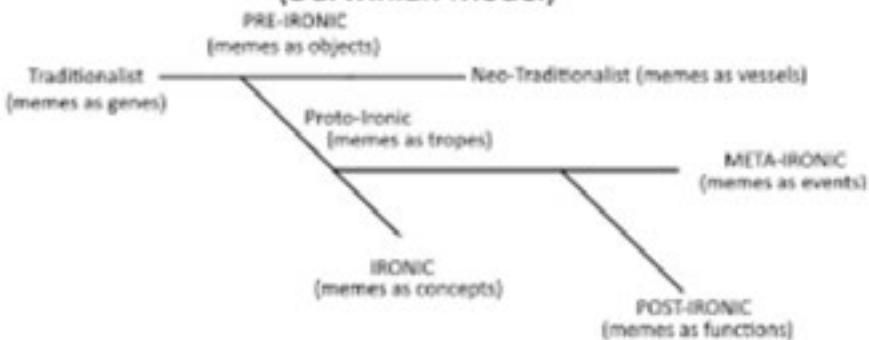


NARRATOLGICALLY
SUBVERSIVE
Is the content used ironically?

Yes	No

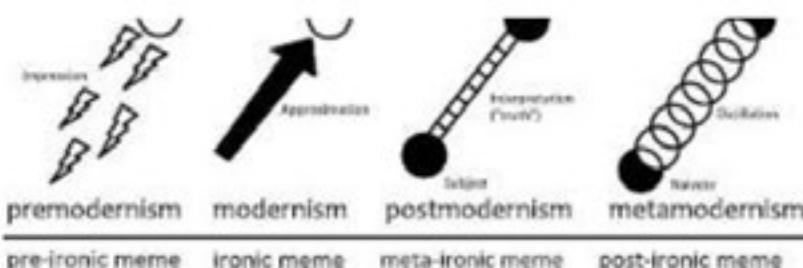


Phylomemetic Tree of Internet Memes (Darwinian Model)



NEGATIVE CHILL
@FilthyFrank

ironic meming is now a
itself so we all lose



META-IRONIC

- structural irony
- conceptual
- meta-criticism of ironic memes
- meme-concept/media found art

i should not do this
2 me: do it anyway
DDDDDDDDddd



I'm really curious to who I upset so badly for my name to be used again on those ironic meme pages

2 Likes · 19 Comments

Getting on some of that Meta shit with some Carl Stillborn memes.

Angry face

nonsense words conveying anger
 nonsense words conveying anger

META-IRONIC

- structural irony
- conceptual
- meta-criticism directed at ironic memes
- meme-concept/medium as found art



meme



levels of irony

non-ironically anarchtransfeminist satirical ironic anti-contrarian anti-satire

meta-ironic contrarian anti-satire

meta-ironic memes

ironic satire

ironic situational humor

where am i ve lost my way

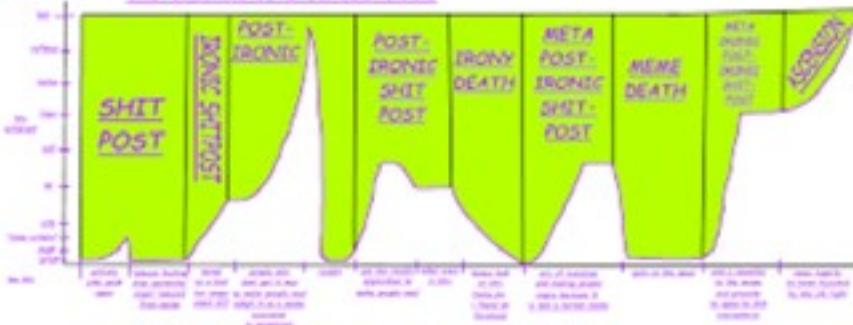


Re: Gertie
Re: You know, you realized something recently. Every time you say "Come over", it's followed by me going "Gertie, whatever why I can't and then you changing my mind. I mean, I'm not gonna do that. This is like following a formula. When I don't even realize what I say in here, I usually know the position of the formula & your response is still going to be "I'm home".
Even the name.
Me



The Yik Yak Facebook page is now officially a super meta-teir post-ironic meme page.

the timeline of a forced meme



PRE-IRONIC

- rigid format and structure
- impact font, top text/bottom text
- prescriptive - "using that meme as a verb"
- simple - meme as visual objects





currently



ok so now that we got the previous languages out of the way lets rlly hone in on the current lingo. i would say it probs started around the early 2010s. where leet n lol speak were more niche and specific to ingroups the current language is more widespread extending to mainstream social media as well as meme culture and has a lot more grammatical specificity



john mcwhorter a well known linguist put forward the idea that texting n contemporary internet language is actually fingered speech.⁷ ik that sounds grody but it rlly



means that the way we talk on the web is an attempt at mimicking the way we speak. (thats why its called webSPEAK not webwrite lol) through history speeches n formal talks have always been trying to imitate the way we write lk fuckin shakespeare it's super fancy n lk no one actually knows what ppl r saying but since communication has been increasingly web oriented language has to catch up



grammar now is a way to communicate the subtleties of spoken word especially in the effort to make up for communication pieces we r missing thru the web fr ex facial expression n emphasis

so in this section of the book were gonna
rllly break down the pieces of contemporary
webspeak, what r the pieces, how do they work
n how have they changed, what does it matter

it's important to note the appropriation of
contemporary grammar in webspeak, we'll get
into it w each component but be aware a lot
of the subtlety of webspeak is in the collective
reassignment of meaning in traditional grammar
structures which have mostly been used to
pace and structure a writing piece



txt style



current webspeak is probs most well known fr the truncation of words plus acronyms and abbreviations these things aren't lk New fr writing, but the cool thing abt the web is how many new ones have become a part of the vernacular as well as many r temporarily

around 2005 or so i was in middle school cell phones were basically just becoming a Thing n i had some rlly crappy flip phone. i was immediately into textspeak first bc if was rlly hard to type on my flip phone. for a while lk most of high school i had this awful little blue brick with a full tiny keyboard. i had a p strict texting limit n my social interactions esp hang out planning were increasingly text based. my first ever relationship w a boy mostly occurred thru corny texts. i was rlly into textspeak to the point where i had some more prescriptivist friends who would make me resend a message spelled out traditionally. i def would go back n forth between more stylistic n more traditional grammar n i think my current text style is sort of an in between

popular n later forgotten

webspeak is rlly influenced by the advent of texting on cell phones bc when texting first became accessible most ppl still had flip phones where

it would b difficult to type out full words n



current language



sentences also the screen was small n texts had length caps n phone companies often charged by the letter



bc this form of communication was evolving simultaneously with communication on the web there was a lot of overlap and texting style basically became absorbed into webspeak

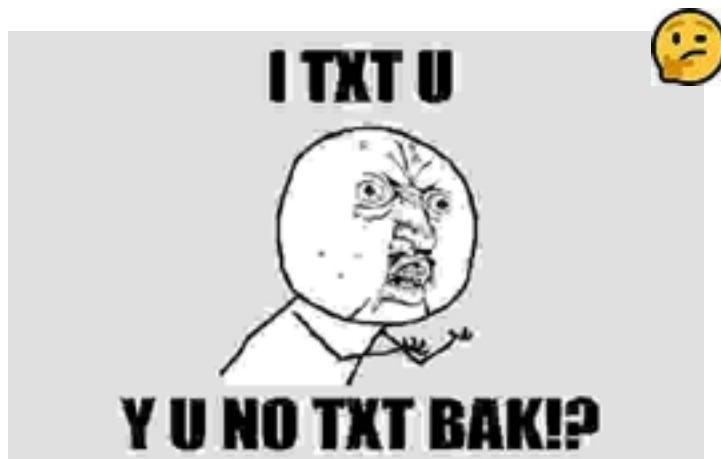


while there r a lot of different ways ppl can truncate words patterns have def emerged w what is considered appropriate

part of the reason letter dropping n truncation occurs is the casual tone that those phrases then convey bc when someone is comfortable enough to not b exactly proper it feels like more sociable n friendly



its easy 2 notice that mostly vowels r dropped when truncating but that's not exclusively tru lk it's more that the unnecessary letters r dropped lk thanks can become thx or ty bc u can still understand what they mean, also altho this is less clearly defined many ppl have a noticeably different internal pronunciation fr truncated words than for their full spelling which is why u might find both the short n long form in the same sentence this is along the same lines as how truncation presents a more casual tone



y u no rage face meme

intentional typos



so speaking of truncation n how it can b a style choice intentional misspelling has become a p big part of webspeak as well



we def see this in lolspeak and even in some parts of leetspeak but there is a lot more breadth and specificity in current webspeak

truncation has become a way fr ppl to mimic vocal tones so that intentionally diff spellings or misspellings have a diff connotation and feeling.⁸ this is a relatively new thing n creates some generational gaps bc older ppl think that

WEIRD-

ANOTHER STUDY FOUND THAT KIDS WHO USE
SMS ABBREVIATIONS ACTUALLY SCORE
HIGHER ON GRAMMAR AND SPELLING TESTS.



WHY ON EARTH IS
THAT A SURPRISE?

IMAGINE KIDS SUDDENLY START PLAYING CATCH
LITERALLY ALL THE TIME. EVERYWHERE THEY GO,
THEY THROW BALLS BACK AND FORTH, TOSS THEM
IN THE AIR, AND HURL THEM AT TREES AND SIGNS—
NEARLY EVERY WAKING HOUR OF THEIR LIVES.



DO YOU THINK THEIR
GENERATION WILL SUCK AT
BASEBALL BECAUSE THEY
LEARNED SLOPPY SKILLS?

...SO YOU THINK SOMEONE
WILL BECOME A GREAT
WRITER WHILE sexting?



HAVE YOU READ JAMES
JOYCE'S LOVE LETTERS?
THE PHRASES "MY LITTLE
FUCKBIRD" AND "ARSE
FULL OF FARTS" APPEAR.

IF WE WANT TO
WRITE ULYSSES, OUR
GENERATION MAY NOT
BE sexting ENOUGH.



xkcd comic strip number 1414



truncation is a result of being rushed or lazy whereas younger ppl use it to communicate their tone

there have honestly been so many stylistic additions to webspeak just in ref to the acronyms n abbreviations it could probs b its own book (there r some in the glossary at the back of the book)



angery meme

lol



probs the most singularly impactful part of webspeak is the acronym lol

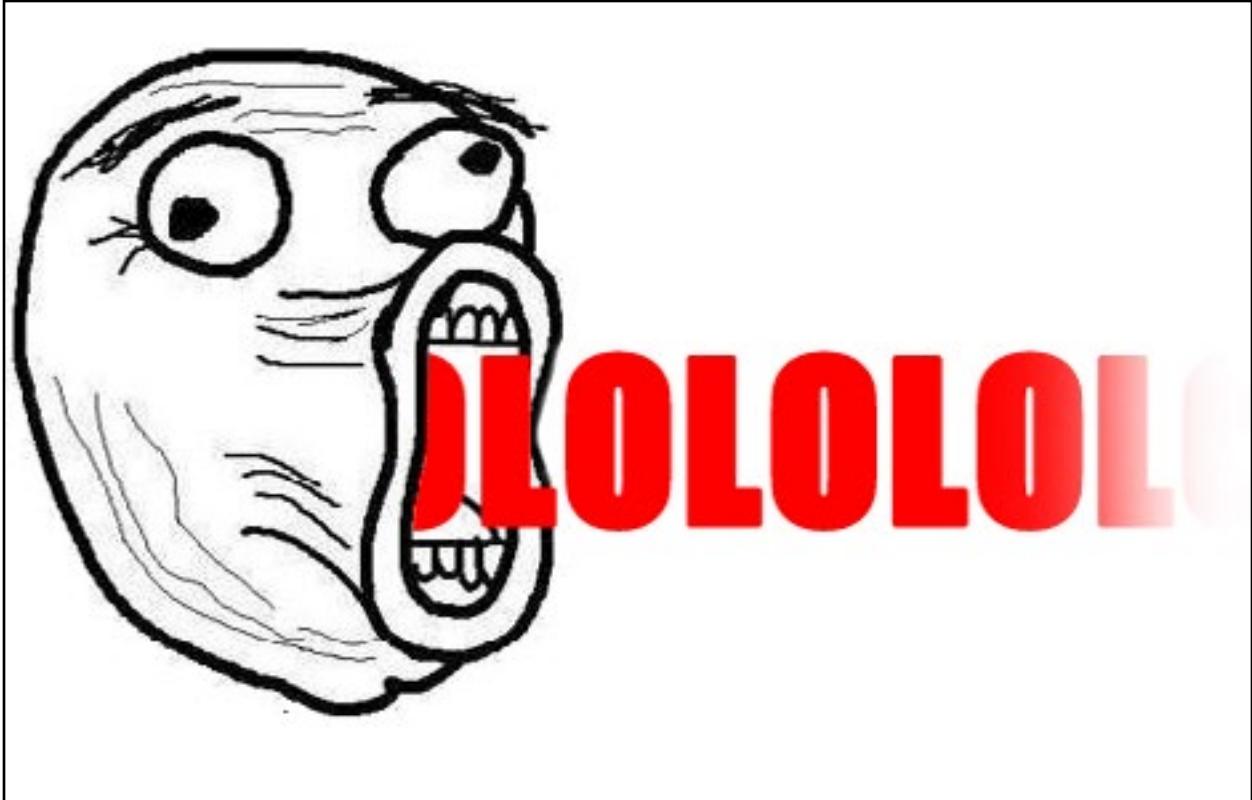


originally meaning laugh out loud lol was a part of the mass of acronyms added to the vernacular when texting became popular including lmao (laugh my ass off) rotfl (roll on the floor laughing) and rotflmao (rolling on the floor laughing my ass off)

lol was used rlly frequently during the image macro meme era so like 2006ish i mean lolcats literally has it in its name but after that meme was exhausted n web culture moved on lol was basically abandoned

current language





lol rage face meme gif still

actually all of the acronyms i mentioned earlier died out i mean that progression is just how the internet works



anyway lol is really special bc it started being used again in around 2011 it was originally brought back as an ironic Thing lk ppl used lol as a joke in reference to the fact that ppl used

to use it fr real which is lk very much standard fr web humor in general



eventually ppl started using it unironically bc of how normalized it was but it took on an entirely new meaning lk it hasn't actually meant 'laugh out loud' for years

linguist john mcwhorter describes lol as a pragmatic particle which is basically a thing that denotes empathy, sayin that another way it's lk adding an lol lets the reader kno to not take the sentence seriously or gives it a casual tone it's also been called an illocutionary force¹⁰ which is just a marker that shows the intent of the speaker

i literally remember using lol fr its intended use when i had a flip phone (2006 ?) and when i started using it ironically (tumblr 11ish) n then unironically (also tumblr 13ish) it is my fave part of internet culture





,

semicolon

- every english teacher's favorite student
- doesn't start things until the last minute
- has hidden wild side of some kind
- probably a cat person

—

m-dash

- must have final zinger in an argument
- kind of an asshole, but in the loveable way
- off-the-charts sarcasm levels
- cheer them up with food



ampersand

- really heckin gay
- probably an art student
- trash for pastel-colored anything
- loves succulents but can't stop killing them

“ ”

quotation marks

- helps friends by sharing memes
- didn't peak until after high school
- "what am i doing with my life"
- probably a younger sibling



parentheses

- wrote it down but lost the note
- thinks of perfect response a day later
- can't catch a break but Trying Really Hard
- loves nature/being outdoors



slash

- so indecisive
- "hip with the youths"
- says "omg" (the actual abbreviation)
- has watched the office at least 3 times

• • •

ellipsis

- what is self-control
- still unironically uses XD and o.O
- freaks out when they see a dog
- kind of a mess, but also pure

!!!

exclamation point(s)

- chaotic neutral
- won't stop watching vine comps
- hasn't slept in three days
- for fuck's sake

*

asterisk

- "well actually..."
- kind of a know-it-all
- won't realize they're the asterisk
- were probably valedictorian or something

~

tilde

- so soft
- probably a weeb
- probably good at whistling
- doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings



question mark

- always sleepy
- "what is happening"
- really likes podcasts and/or npr
- shares nihilistic memes; really an optimist

tag yourself meme using punctuation



punctuation.

so everyone knows how punctuation is used in traditional grammar (it's pacing n tempo₁₁) n on the web it's sorrrrta similar but it's a lot more specific



traditionally punctuation is super uniform lk u expect a period at the end of a sentence or a comma after however but now punctuation is way less standard bc webspeak is rlly informal lk as if ppl were having a casual conversation in person



period

by this point in the book u def woulda noticed
that i use periods rlly minimally mostly to break
up two sentences that dont flow as a run on but
this is literally an arbitrary style choice rather
than anything else webspeak is more lk rlly
long run on sentences to complete a thought
altho the adept web linguist will kno where the
breaks r supposed to b

the hard stop that was once provided w a period is now represented by a hard enter which is an effect of texting mixing w webspeak bc thoughts / phrases r sent individually as a sequence of texts 😊



periods have a sense of finality to them so they
r generally avoiding in texting bc text convos r
generally ongoing n dont have a definite end



all this to say that periods r not useless in fact
they have basically taken a completely new
connotation since they r so rarely rarely used
adding a period is very intentional Choice n it
has come to represent a negative or curt tone₁₂

similar to word truncation theres a p big gener-
ational split very specifically w period use lk
above all diff punctuation forms bc it's the one
w the most changed connotation

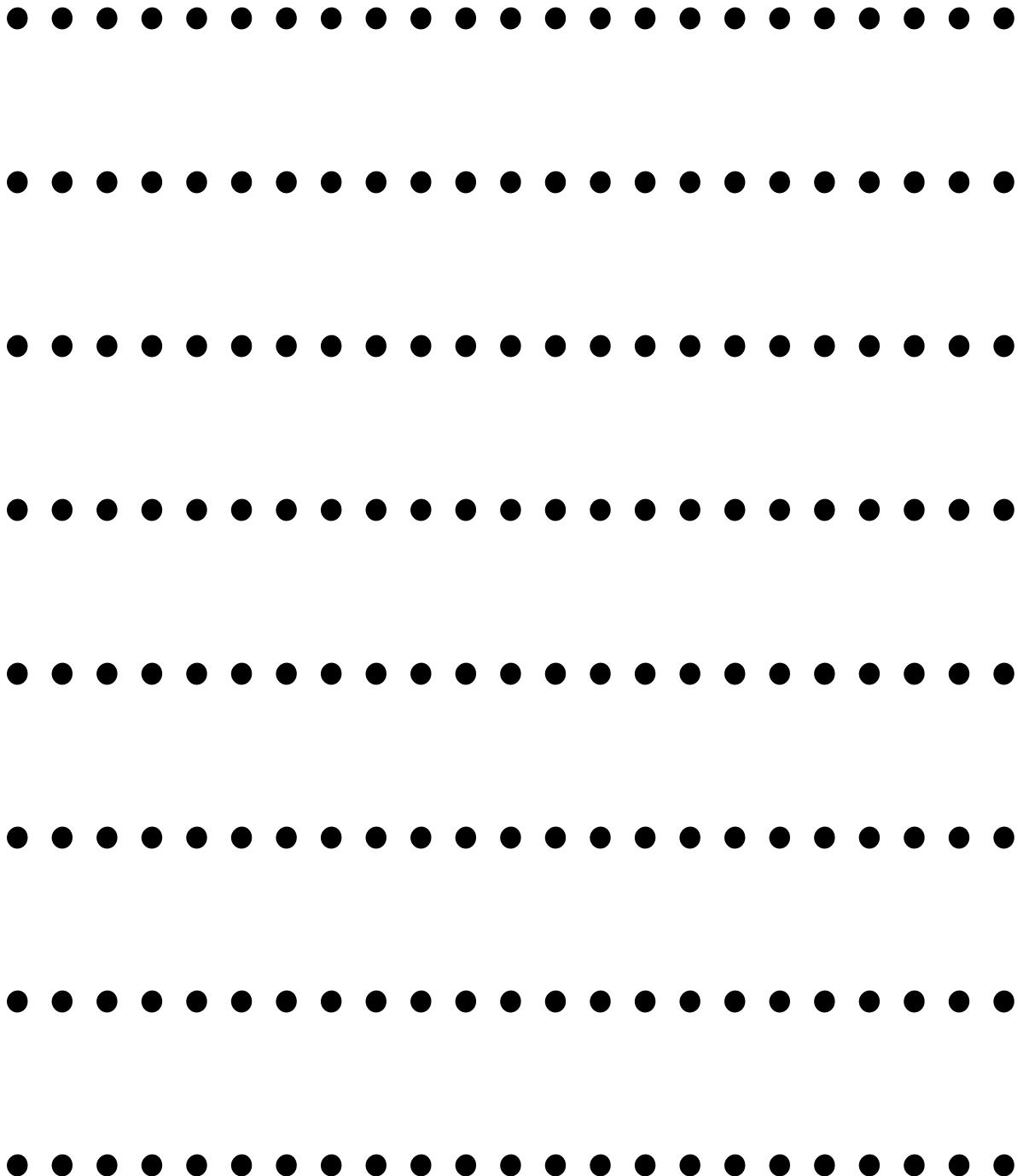
Youths tend to not use periods while older folk
use traditional grammar which often leads to a
miscommunication of tone fr the young person

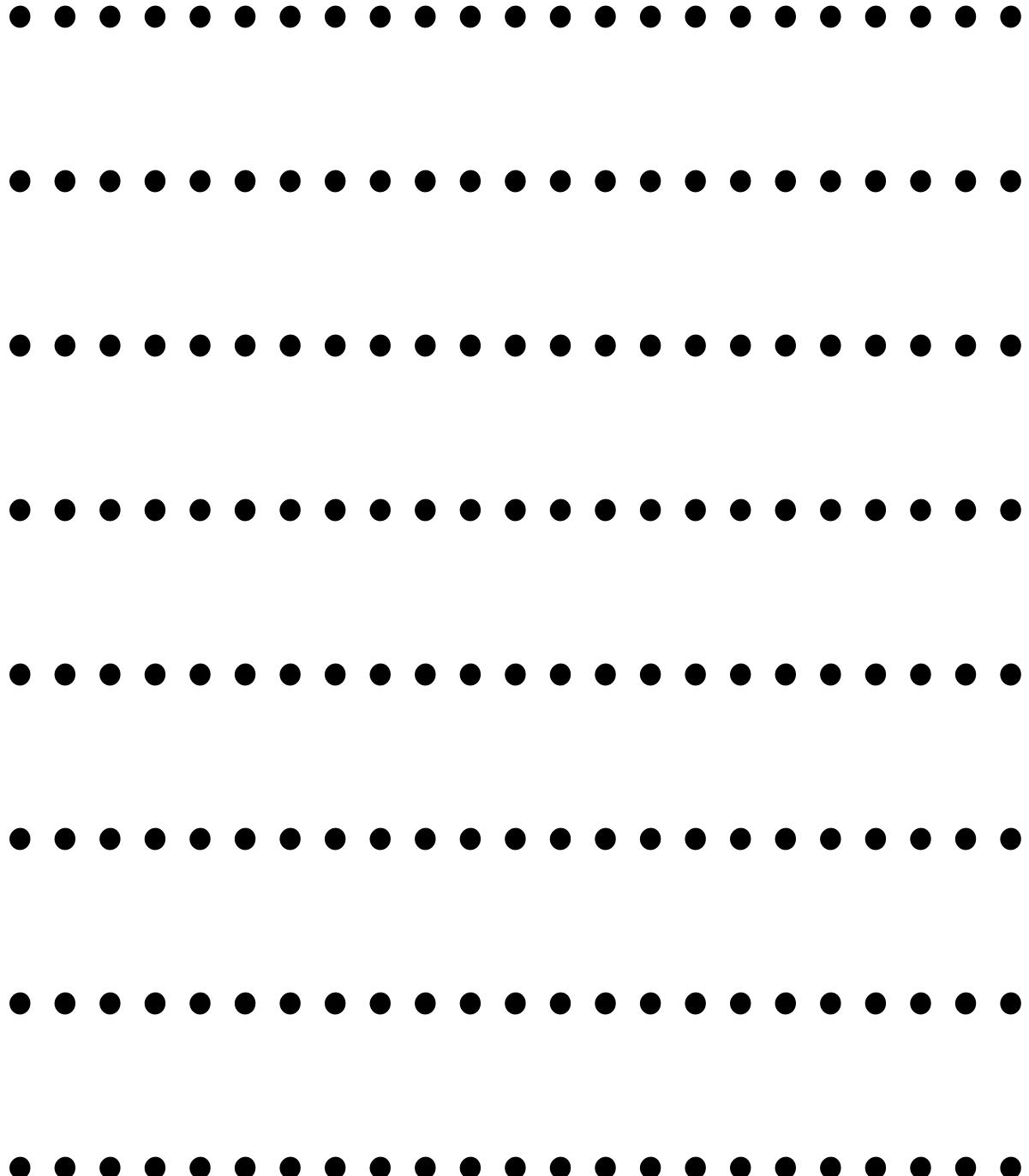
bc they have learned to read periods as negative or serious while the  older person is just being grammatical this is sort of a growing pain of webspeak bc being able to convey seriousness visually is absolutely important to the lexicon of tonality found in webspeak but it's kind of unfortunate it's been assigned to an already existing structure altho it does totally



make sense







.....ellipsis...



traditional ellipsis r three periods together
n represent either an omission of a word or
phrase or that a sentence continues / is trailing
off but on the web ellipsis are mostly used to
pace or add breaks to sentences n the number
of periods in an ellipsis usually represent the
length of break altho it is fairly arbitrary



ellipsis also can replace traditional punctua-
tion₁₃ altho they still function as a pacing break
or a sort of suspense builder



similar to the lack of periods in webspeak
ellipsis are v open ended n dont convey finality
in ur sentences heavy ellipsis use is very typi-
cally webspeakey n has even been a founda-
tional part of some memes

? n !



exclamation points n question marks have def changed the least in the transition to webspeak they still convey their respective og meanings but have gained some new formats n applications altho they r v similar in use



following the web's abandonment of ending punctuation adding an exclamation point or question mark is a v deliberate action and holds an extra emphatic weight

also both r commonly found now in the middle of sentences bc they have taken pseudo onomatopoeia function where they cn stand alone as a phrase



creativityobsessed:

urbanoutfucks:

i wish i could say “?????????” in real life it would be very useful

Yeah but the weirdest thing is that DOES have a sound in your head.

I also feel like ???? and !!!!!!! come with facial expressions. Something like raised eyebrows?



screen capture of tumblr conversation

repetition



the repetition of punctuation is something we rarely see in traditional grammar but its fairly constant in webspeak

as mentioned b4 exclamation points n question marks r sometimes used as onomatopoeia n often they r represented w a string of punctuation i think bc it feels more like a word

somethin i find rlly cool abt how webspeak evolves is its interaction w web culture lk the awareness of using repeated punctuation became a text based meme starting w lolspeak⁴



the premise is rlly simple where ppl who would b writing a string of punctuation usually exclamation points will replace some of them with the non-shift-key characters (!!!1!!!) or similar looking ones (!!!ii!) or going ham w the joke in a rlly self aware way (!!one!!1!)



astreisk asterisk*



the asterisk was only ever a footnote marker in traditional grammar but it has become a rlly big part of web vernacular having obtained a few distinct uses



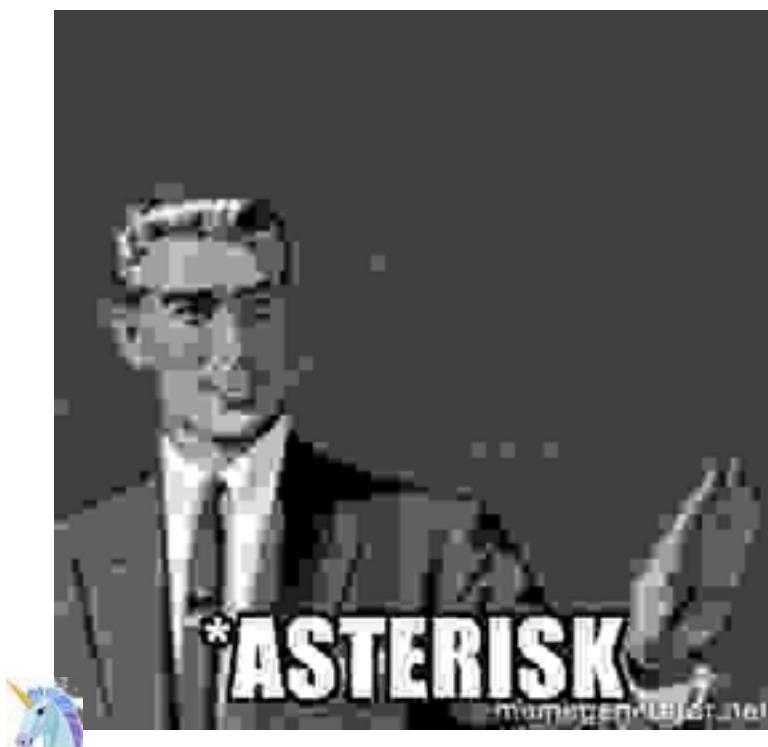
the first is as an action indicator commonly found in rp culture where when trying to communicate a physical action the phrase is bracketed w asterisks this is a fairly niche use bc the rp community is still p underground

another less frequently used function is as an emphasis indicator₁₁, it's not used as much bc

there r more iconic n specific ways to convey emphasis in webspeak



by far the most common use is as a repairer usually to correct a previously written error or typo₁₅ it's rlly important fr webspeak to b able to correct urself after the fact bc it prevents interrupting the stream of conversation while still clarifying the original intent



correction man meme

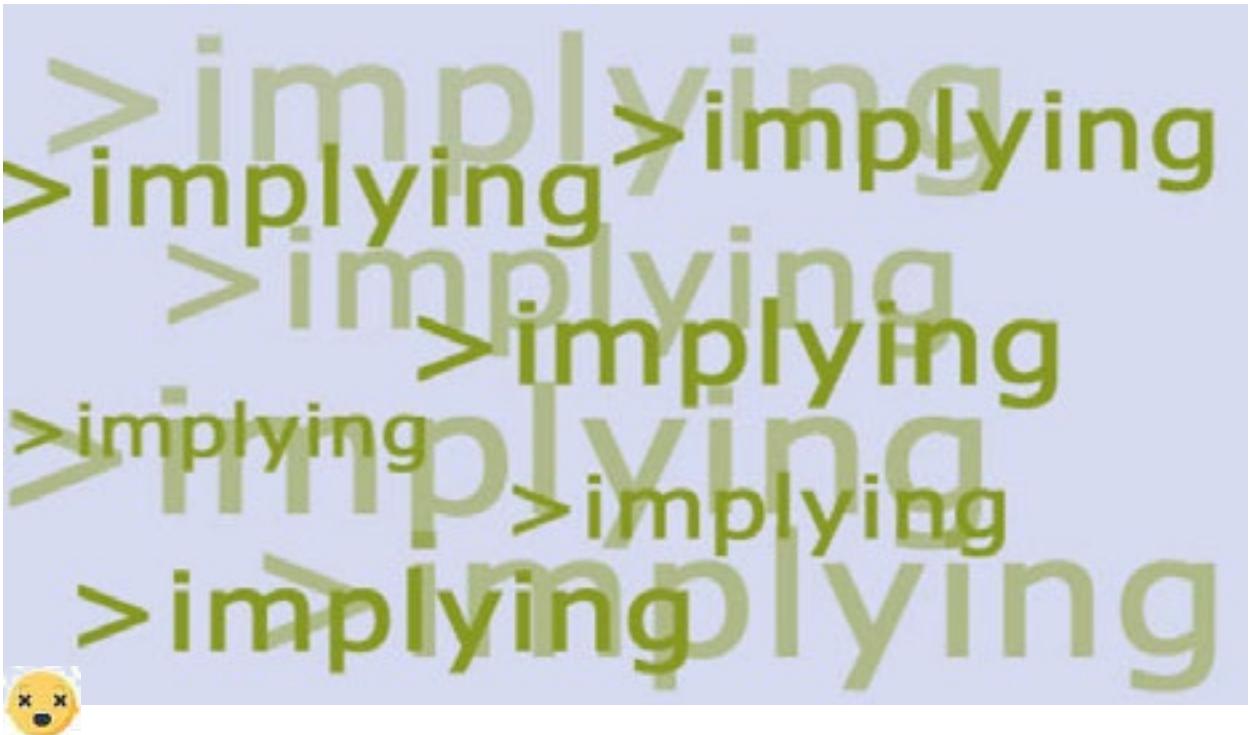
carat n arrow

in a paper analyzing the chats of a world of warcraft guild (its a multiplayer video game that's been around forever also called WoW) the author collister¹⁴ p effectively describes the use of carats n arrows on the web as a whole even tho it was in this niche group



while traditionally carats are mostly used to represent exponents on the web carats basically always refer to the previous line of a chat which is called a deixis in fancy linguistic speak so in a chat group or text message the carat is pointing to the earlier message deictic items can b rlly vague bc their meanings are affected





implying meme gif still

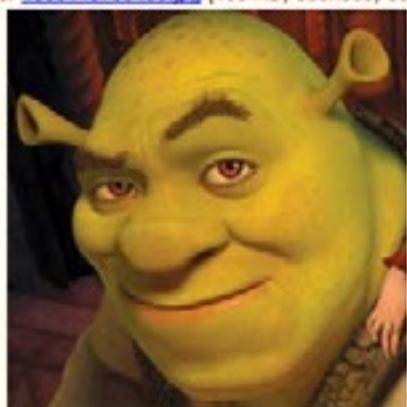
by context, social processes, and speaker environment' lk which can get confusing if multiple people are part of a chat group and someone posts b4 a person can comment w a ^



it og functioned the way asterisks now do
which is as a repairing symbol to correct typos
but it has since transformed into an affirmation symbol or a shorthand for agreeing w the



File: 1358148753159.jpg (105 KB, 300x300, 300.shrek.forever.ir.121800.jpg)



Anonymous (ID: CBcH+zLI) 01/14/13(Mon)02:32:33 No.450921803 Replies: >>4509

- > I was only 9 years old
- > I loved shrek so much, I had all the merchandise and movies
- > I pray to shrek every night before bed, thanking him for the life I've been given
- > "Shrek is love" I say. "Shrek is life"
- > My dad hears me and he calls me a faggot
- > I knew he was just jealous of my devotion for Shrek
- > I called him a cunt
- > He slaps me and sends me to go to sleep
- > Im crying now, and my face hurts
- > I lay in bed and its really cold
- > A warmth is moving towards me
- > I feel something touch me
- > Its shrek
- > I am so happy
- > He whispers in to ear, "this is my swamp"
- > He grabs me with his powerful ogre hands and puts me on my hands and knees

- > I'm ready
- > I spread my ass cheeks for Shrek
- > He penetrates my butthole
- > It hurts so much but I do it for Shrek
- > I can feel my butt tearing as my eyes start to water
- > I push against his force
- > I want to please Shrek
- > He roars a mighty roar as he fills my butt with his love
- > My dad walks in
- > Shrek looks him straight in the eye and says. "Its all ogre now"
- > Shrek leaves through my window
- > Shrek is love, Shrek is life

> Anonymous (ID: fBWBgNjg) 01/14/13(Mon)02:33:51 No.450922048

what the fuck



shrek is life 4chan story screencap

previous statement it has actually become a
rlly big part of reddit and 4chan's gig bc it is
synonymous w upvoting or agreeing w a post
it also can function similarly as the check mark
denoting that a message has been read in other
messaging systems



the arrow was actually completely generated on the web and is made of a greater than symbol with at least two hyphens it's a combo of iconicity symbolism + indexicality which means it's form and meaning agree and it is used to direct a viewer to some object



it has come to agree w the linguist term called a copula which is basically the word that links a subject and predicate which is usually 'is' but the arrow can be 'is' 'is from' 'has [action]' 'associated with' 'me'

almost exclusively seen on 4chan the greater than symbol has a secondary function aside from being part of arrows it's a sentence starter pulled from coding in a terminal the > is seen



in front of each line in a story it has since been iterated on ironically but the system has an iconic tie to forums and deep web communities



~tilde~



this is a weird lil fella that has gotten more traction as a web character than in print

similar to the asterisk it can b used fr emphasis
ex ~this~ but more notably it is used in aesthetic culture which is a niche on the web focussed mostly on minimalism n pastel colors also it's used to mimic said culture often for phrases meant to b exaggerated ex 'its just so ~artsy~'





ironic aesthetic meme



current language

79

witchshaming:



kirby-ebooks:



ihamtmus:

corn-free-awesomesauce:

The best part of ‘me, an intellectual’ is that the grammatically correct pronoun would be ‘I’.

you: me, an intellectual

me, an intellectual: I, an intellectual

hi where the fuck do you think that fragment is getting nominative case. listen to me. subjects of transitive verbs in nom-acc languages get nominative case by agreeing with a tense node. are you listening. fragments are accusative in english because that's the default case when there's no case-assigning node. meet me in the pit behind the denny's and i will explain this to you. bring a whiteboard

you: The best part of ‘me, an intellectual’ is that the grammatically correct pronoun would be ‘I’.

kirby, a linguist: meet me in the pit behind the denny's and i will explain this to you. bring a whiteboard

18th-century grammarians: English grammar should work like Latin!

me, a linguistics blogger: I wrote a post explaining why “me” is perfectly acceptable two years ago

tumblr linguistic dialogue including me, an intellectual meme



talk lk u mean it



othr



there r a couple other punctuation centric webspeak variants worth mentioning

similar to webspeaks vowel dropping most apostrophes r also dropped similar to arabic but many webspeakers know how to read w out them



commas r also mostly removed even in list-making but there r some specific instances where they r v intentionally used lk in a popular tumblr meme where sentences r ended w a comma to suggest that the phrase continues but is unnecessary to actually see¹⁶



ladysparklefists:

idk I just love how we Young People Today use ~improper~ punctuation/grammar in actually really defined ways to express tone without having to explicitly state tone like that's just really fucking cool, like

no = "No," she said.

no. = "No," she said sharply.

No = "No," she stated firmly.

No. = "No," she snapped.

NO = "No!" she shouted.

ooooooooo = "No," she moaned.

no- = "No," she said with a drawn-out sing-song.

~no~ = "No," she drawled sarcastically.

NOOOOO = "No!" she screamed dramatically.

no?! = "No," she said incredulously.

I've been calling this "typographical nuance" and I have a few more to add:

no = "No," she said emphatically.

nopes on out of here = "No," she said of herself in the third person, with a touch of humorous emphasis.

~*~nooooo~*~ = "No," she moaned in stylized pseudo-desperation.

#no = "No," she added as a side comment.

"no" = "No," she scare-quoted.

~~wtf are you kidding~~ no = "No," she said flatly. "And I can't believe I have to say this."

no no No NO NO NO NO = "No," she repeated over and over again, growing louder and more emphatic.

nooOOOO = "No," she said, starting out quietly and turning into a scream.

*no = "Oops, I meant 'no,'" she corrected, "Sorry for the typo in my previous message."

□ Psychological Effects of the Internet · source: ladysparklefists

tumblr discourse on typographical nuance



Patrick W Chariton

@PwnedByBono

Follow

when you accidentally type a capital letter at
the beginning of a sentence



*oh no my aloof
and uninterested yet
woke and humorous
aesthetic*



capitalization meme twitter screencap





Capitalization

ok well the other obv aspect of grammar is the capitalization of certain words i mean traditionally proper nouns and the beginning of sentences are capitalized but for the most part the web has abandoned traditional caps



probs since the era of image macros sentences in all caps have the connotation of yelling so generally all caps r lk Banned bc no one wants to feel lk theyre getting yelled at fr no reason

caps r also used for additional emphasis such as sentence switching to all caps at the end to represent rising excitement



a style recently added to the web vernacular
is a capitalized word often followed by a ™ ex
Bad™ which is an added emphasis and an offi-
cial tone but mostly in an ironic way¹⁷



in 2017 a new meme emerged adding a
new use for capitalization called mocking
spongebob it uses a screencap from the show
where spongebob is posed like a parrot and it's
accompanied with a situation where the creator
repeats a phrase using alternating caps and
lowercase to represent the tone of mimicking



mocking spongebob meme



lengthened

lengthened words r when a word has repeated letters to represent the way ppl exaggerate words in speech it's a form of nonverbal signalling bc it allows the viewer to visualize how a phrase would be said out loud¹⁸ usually the last letter or rightmost group repeats is bc thats how usually its Said out loud rather than lengthening the phonetically correct syllable



in a study conducted using twitter posts some linguists examined what letters are actually lengthened¹⁹ they found that vowels lengthen more than consonants, 'rhymes lengthen more than offsets', silent letters lengthen, stops

lengthen more than continuants, nucleus glide
more than lengthen in diphthongs

Order of preference for lengthening:

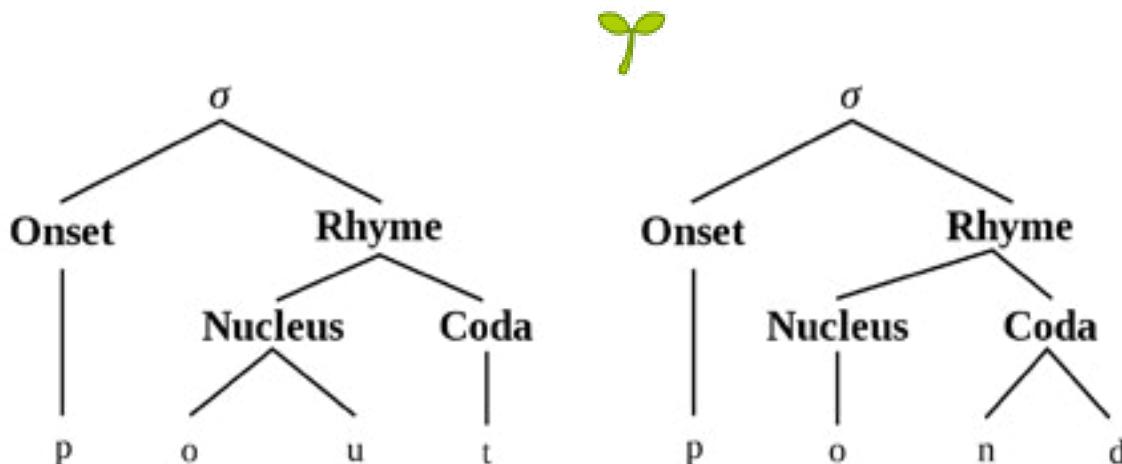
1. rightmost thing



2. rightmost in some unit

3. non-rightmost thing

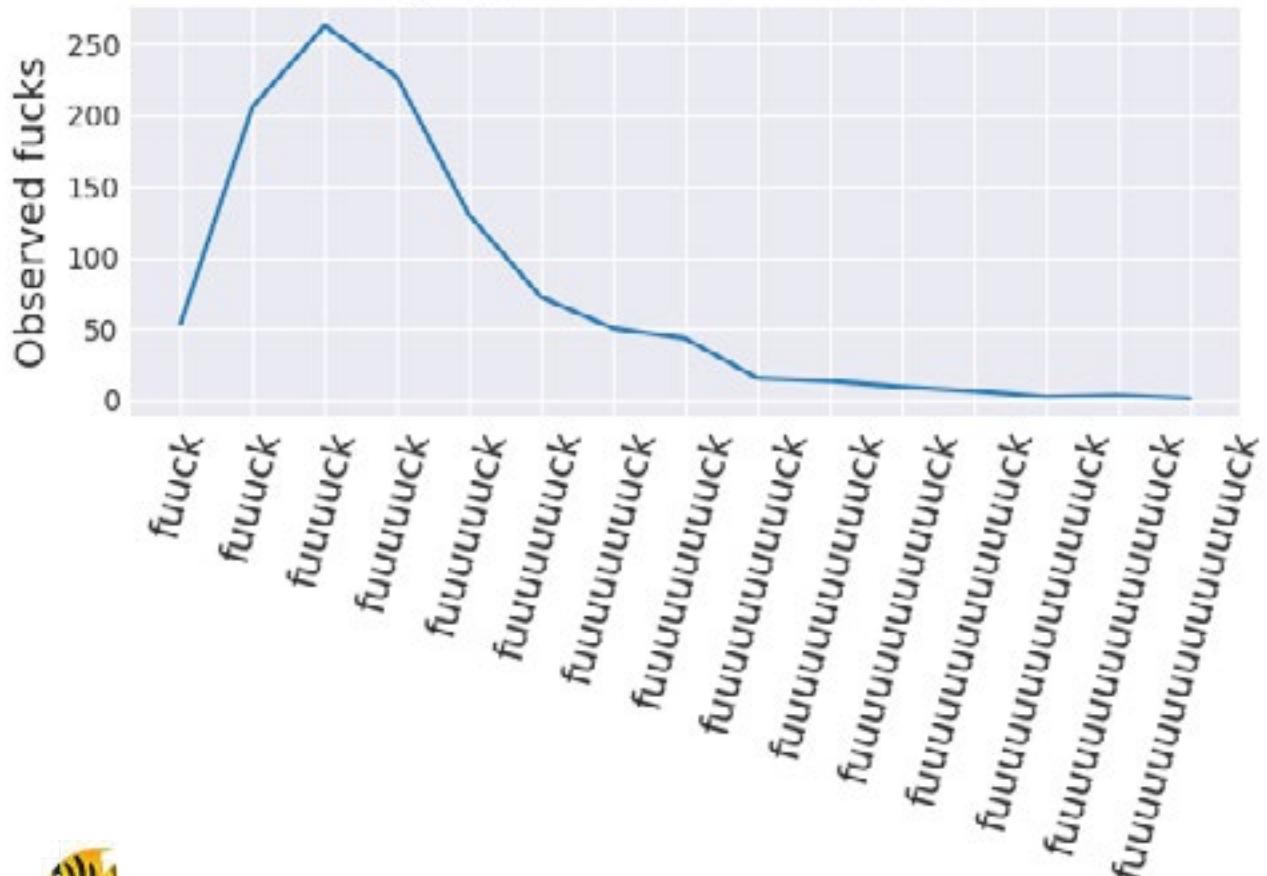
also there r words w specific lengthening preferences ex duuuuuude is more common than dudeeeee



linguistic breakdown of word components



F(u+)ck variants on twitter

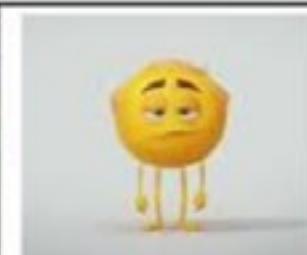


lengthening frequencies table

WHO WOULD WIN?



An irreplaceable historic icon of western animation



A glorified " ; "

Apple

Google

Microsoft



REMEMBER WHEN EMOJIS
WERE JUST CALLED CLIP ART



AND EVERYONE THOUGHT
THEY WERE STUPID?



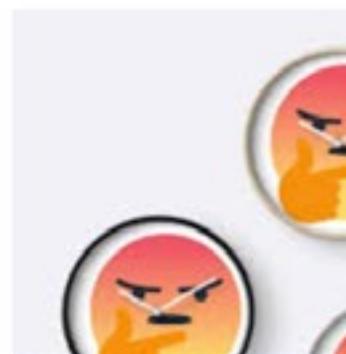
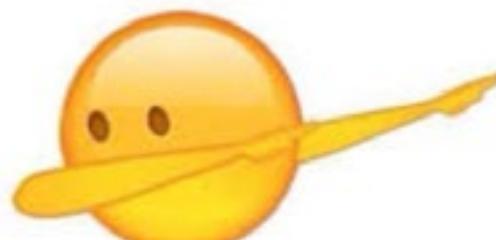
@emojimaniac



holy fu



Who want this emoji? 🤔





EMOJI BOSS minionBEE



Happy

Sad

Depressed

Suicidal

EMOJI
MOVIE



Facebook: *minion meme*

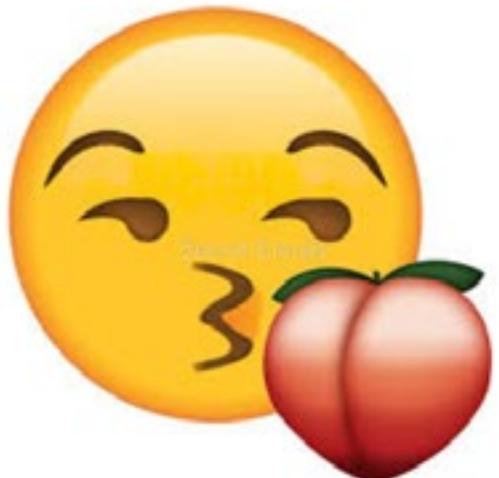
40 year old moms:



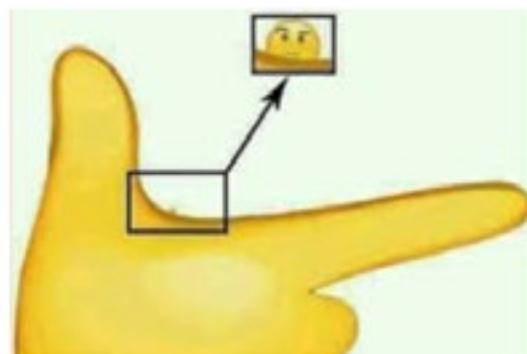
S
ART

HT

ck dude i'm dying right now



100 100
100 100
100 100



BOI





TYPOGRAPHICAL ART.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that the letter-press department of this paper is not going to be trampled on by any tyranical crowd of artists in existence. We mean to let the public see that we can lay out, in our own typographical line, all the cartoonists that ever walked. For fear of startling the public we will give only a small specimen of the artistic achievements within our grasp, by way of a first instalment. The following are from Studies in Passions and Emotions. No copyright.



Joy.



Melancholy.



Indifference.



puck magazine emoticons



emojis



maybe the most iconic part of webspeak is the emoji (haha get it) altho we should probably talk abt emoticons frst tho



so the first recorded emoticon (proto-emoji) was actually a typographic art from a magazine called 'puck' in the early 1900s₂₀ like emoticons they use alphanumeric tokens lk parenthesis semicolons n colons

emoticons were immediately popular basically as soon as texting became accessible there's this almost innate desire to pair words w images when it comes to human communication







docomo oemojis

a japanese company called docomo released the first set of emojis in 1999 one of the engineers shigetaka kurita said 'I'd rather see a picture of the sun, instead of a text saying 'fine'' the set of emojis they released were actually added to the moma collection in 2016



emojis became more widespread in the early 2010s when they got added to the unicode character set n since then there have been a number of iterations adding to the set of emojis as well as many diff platforms having their own interpretation of the set



u might think traditional emoticons would fade out as emojis became popular but they have actually evolved to hold their own specific illocutionary force it goes deeper than that even lk





emoticons w a nose have a different connotation than emoticons w out²¹

it's not officially known what the Official linguist use of emojis is many it's most often compared to a type of nonverbal cue²² that helps explain tone and intent which is esp important fr the web bc digital communication sorely lacks the nonverbal additions of face to face interaction i mean at the moment emojis r most often used as a secondary punctuation to add additional meaning or lk a related image to a message²³



some ppl actually worry that we're gonna regress as a society n only use emojis to communicate but most linguists agree that that would never actually happen²⁴ especially bc of how limited emojis r







excerpt of apple emojidex

current language

99





excerpt of twitter emojidex

actually speaking of emoji limitations since each developer basically generates their own emoji base the function of emojis as a tonal indicator sometimes doesnt work bc the way emojis look across platform can drastically change their meaning



even more complicated is the fact that emojis already can have multiple meanings since it's so fluid n there's never been lk an explicit definition fr emojis



the japanese variant of emojis r called kaomojis, n many of them have in recent years been added to the web vernacular they use japa-nese characters (kanji) to create a huge range of faces n scenes many of which r offer a more intricate or specific tone than traditional emojis



Same Emoji + Different Smartphone Platform = Different Emotion

For example, if you send the Apple emoji to a Google Nexus, they'll see the Google emoji, and vice versa!

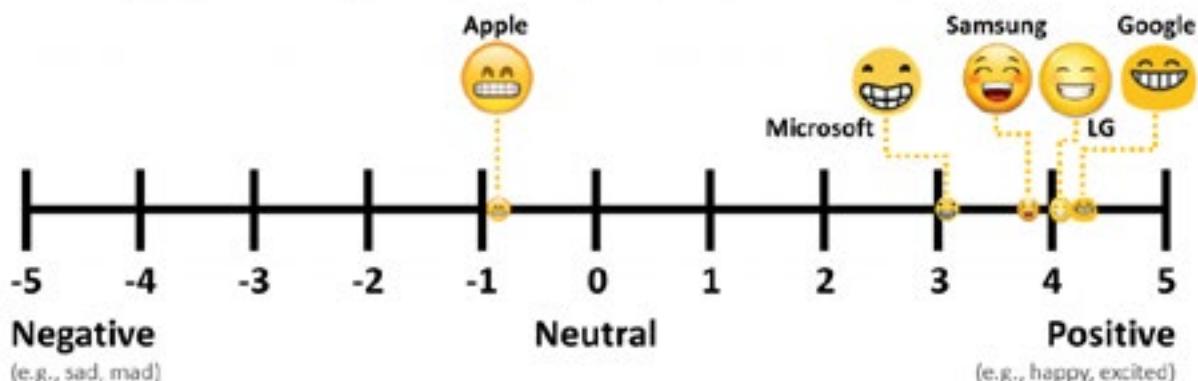


chart 1 from varying interpretations of emojis paper

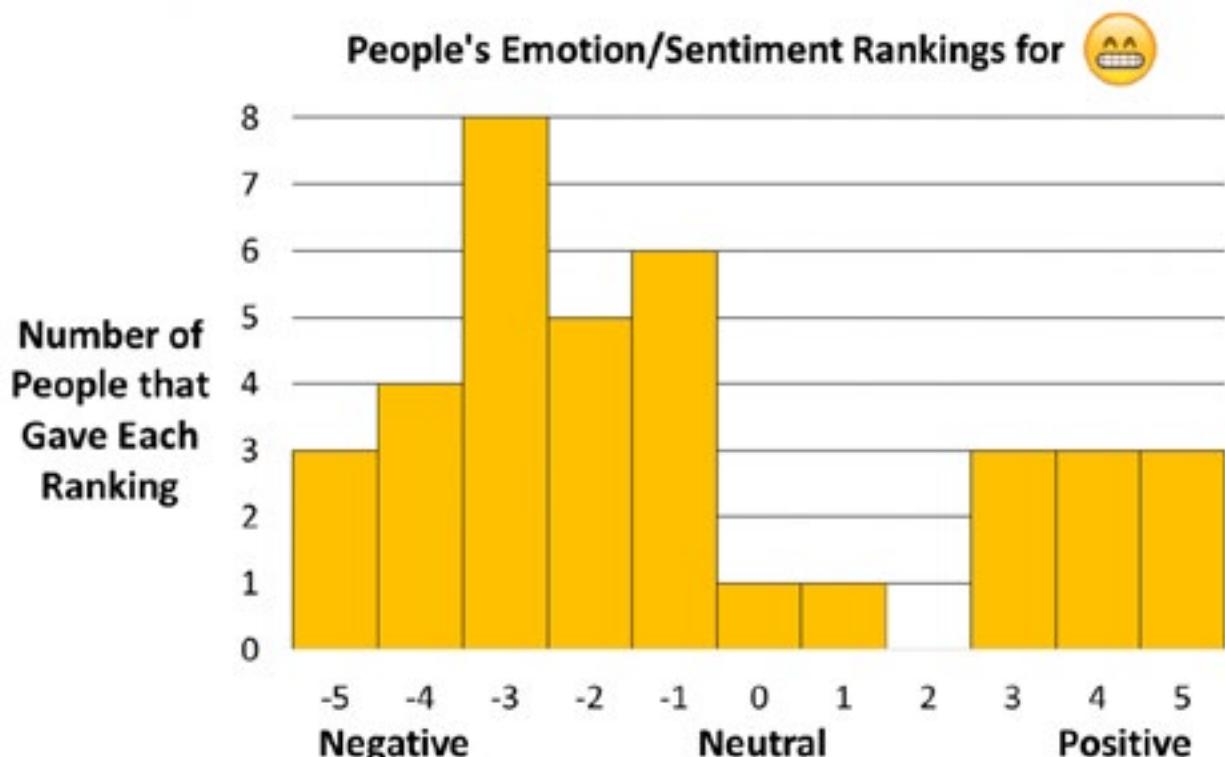


chart 2 from varying interpretations of emojis paper



original tumblr post of hold my flower meme

since kaomojis use non standard characters (i mean lk for an american computer) they can be difficult to integrate bc to repeat them most ppl must copy and paste them to the point where there are single use websites that just have a copyable kaomoji₂₈





(^ ^ ω ^)	(^ ύ ^ *)	“(o_o_o)_”	☆*:.,.o(ε▽ε)o.,.:☆
(o^▽^o)	(~▽~)☆	<~~~~>	+. .☆*:.”(~~~~)”))
~(·~·~)/	(··ω··)	(~ω~)	~_~;~_~;(~t^)
(o·ω·o)	(@ ^ ~ ^)	~(* · ω ·)/	(o_) / ⚡☆
(^ λ ^)	(o^▽^o)	(^▽^*)	~ (^ ^ ω ^) *
(^ ω ^)	((((o(^▽^*)o)))	(ε~ε)	(o'v'o)
(^*ω^*)	(^▽^*)	(~ω~)	Σd(^v^d)
~(~v~)~	(~_~)	(^~^~)	~(o^~o)/
(★~★)	(o_~o)	(^~o~^)	(☆▽☆)
(~_~)	\(ε▽ε)/	~(o^~▽^~o)/	☆~(^▽^λ)
(^*▽^*)	“(i_i_i)_”	(ΦωΦ)	~(*~▽~*)/
(···~·~·)	(^ ▽ ^)	(~▽~)	~(^~~*)~
~(>v<☆)/	o(ε▽ε)o	(☆w☆)	(>ω<)
\(~▽~)/	(^~^~)	\(^ ▽ ^)/	“(o_o)_”
(o^~o)	\(★ω★)/	ψ^ωψ/	(^ ^ ▽ ^ ^)
(~Φ▽Φ)~	o(>ω<)o	o(^~^)o	~(T^T)~
(^~^~)	(J'w')/“;”	(b~▽~)b	(o>ω<)~
(o~^~o)	(^~^)	(^T^T)	~.Φ ψ^ω^Φ)~Φ~
(^~·~^~)	(J*Φ*)/“;”Φ	(^MM)	☆~~(^~,^~)chu
(J~^~)/	(Oμ_μ)	~(O_~O)/	(^~^)~/~○
(O_-~O)	(~ε~@)	(^○~○)	(~ · / / / · ~)
(~_~)○	(~***~)○	(o_o)○	(/▽ \ *)_oo○
(^ ω ^)○	○(~_~)	○(ε~ω~)	○~(^▽^λ)
(o~^~○)	(○▽○○)	(^~ω~^~)○	(^ ▽ ^)~o○
(^*ω^*)○	(^ ε ^)○	(○~○~○)	○~(~▽~)/○
~(^~~*)~○	(^~^~)~..~○	(^~^~)○	(~ω(^~~)○
(ε~ε)○	(~▽~)○	(J^ω^)(^~^)○	“(○ε○)~
○(^▽^>~(^~))	(^~^)○(^~)	○(~3~)	(♥ω♥)
o(εεo)○	○(→ 3 ←)	(^○_○)	(^~^○)
(^~^)○(μ_μ)♥	♥ (δ~δ(^~~)○)		
Σ>-(^ ^ ω ^ ^)○→			

excerpt of kaomoji index



current language

105



Classist and ableist linguistic elitism



Prescriptivists

Actually taking the time
to learn and examine
how language is used in
varying social contexts

distracted boyfriend meme with about linguistics

prescriptivism

so i've done a whole lotta talkin about prescriptivism so far but i figure i should probs get a lil more into it



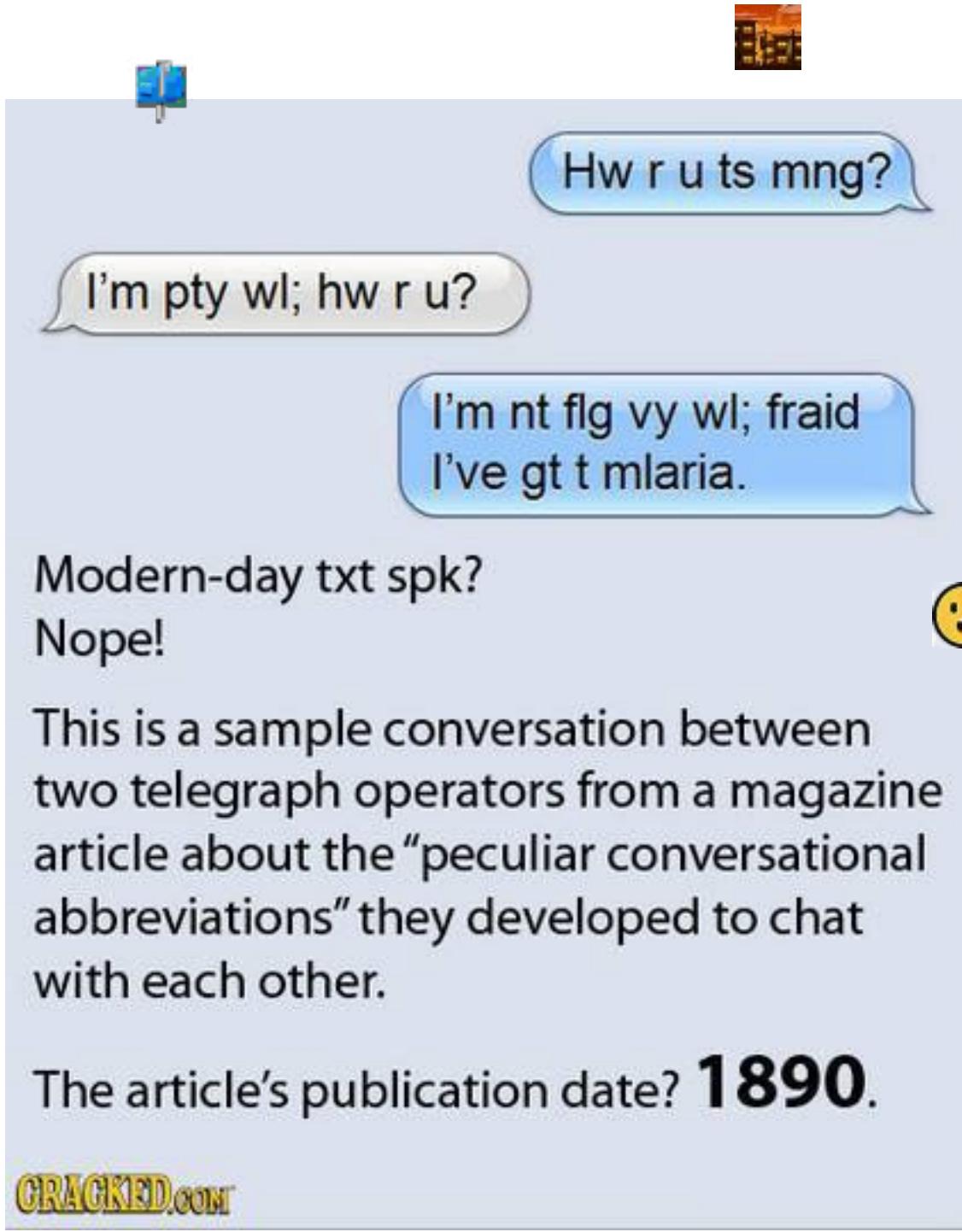
the basic idea is that there r some ppl who think language should have a clearly defined set of rules in place n that's what we should follow (this is the shit u learned in school)

prescriptivism has gotten increasingly popular as web speak has evolved esp bc webspeak has continued trending away from traditional grammar structures



as mentioned earlier typographic style has an increasing impact on tonality n intent where





cracked image showing telegram communication

even a lil period or a mis-capitalized letter can shift the voice of a sentence



descriptivism is the sorta opposite to prescriptivism where it's abt simply recording language as it is rather than trying to define it so descriptivists love webspeak bc of its fluidity n subtle evolutions



the prescriptivist mindset often overlaps w the idea that webspeak is lazy n incorrect but webspeak has clearly evolved to have v specific intent even when not being grammatically correct by traditional standards



Spud's
Spud's
Spud's



...but it's better to eat with your parents

www.spuds.com





#2 Posted on: 03/10/18 at 8:08pm

•Pippie



Edit: btw im a 20 year old female college student from the united states.
hi! i'll help you out! something i find interesting is that my typing has changed a lot over the years. i used to be a real stickler for capitalizing, punctuation, grammar etc but i've gotten way lazier since i have a smartphone; sometimes autocorrect and whatnot can be so frustrating that i stop caring about what shows up in my texts. the people close to me can usually figure out what i mean, however, i'm an english tutor, so when i'm texting someone who's esl i have to be more careful so they don't adopt my bad habits. i have to be a model for them. even so, i hate the work my cellphone sometimes makes me do... it can prove to be not such a "smart" phone hahaha

-i do use text speak such as thx, pls, u, tho, lol/mac/let, wbu, omw, and others.
-abbreviations i often use would be prof for professor, hw for homework, ppl for people, abt for about. instead of writing out 4:30 am i will often write 4:30am. i also use shortcuts when i'm texting in spanish, tho i don't know many of those.
-im usually pretty consistent with punctuation. i sometimes leave out periods, question marks, and commas. i almost always leave out apostrophes. i use very long ellipses, hahaha
-i use more emoji's than gifs. i use emoji's constantly and they are a crutch haha. if there is no emoji feature i tend to use text-based ones and sometimes my messages and emails feel weird to me if i dont have them 😊
-a lot of the jokes i make with friends do reference memes, gifs, and emoji's.
-internet culture has everything to do with how i speak in real life and i think that's true for a lot of people; some ppl might not even realize they're making internet references when they talk, and yeah i'm that terrible person who says "LGJL" out loud at times.
-web speak makes me a little sad tbh because, like swearing, maybe it's a sign that our words are less creative so our ideas and our brains are going down the same path...hmmm



you'll laugh at your fears when you find out who you are.

screengrab of subeta forum chat



i og started writing this book
to prove the opinions on
webspeak i always have held n
to find academic precedence n
linguistic explanations fr each
aspect of webspeak



webspeak is obv a constantly evolving
language so the stuff covered in this book is
just where we r now (plus some stuff stuff i
didnt have the chance to cover) but i think its
rlly important that we as a collective r thinkin
critically abt webspeak bc the internet is
currently a primary communication method
n we dont stop to consider how webspeak
affects this communication

check out the book at talklkumeanit.com

ok so i promised i was gonna talk abt pet
websites so here it is
it's embarrassing n fully a guilty pleasure
of mine but i really love this shit lk yall
remember neopets it's lk that (altho neopets
has been long dead) my fave site is subeta (i
have had an account for almost 8 years lol)
the basic premise is like an rpg style universe
where u can dress up an avatar n do various
quests n whatever
anyway i have a v casual acquaintanceship
w a bunch of ppl on subeta (im part of their
forum group n when i remember to i like to
chat in there) so i decided to make a forum
post to ask ppl abt how they use web lingo



fungii

Hi all!

I'm a senior in college studying graphic design. For my thesis project, I'm writing and designing a book about the language of the internet. Here's where you guys come in. I'm looking for other perspectives and experiences of how people treat language on the web, whether it's forums, social media, etc. I would really love to hear about how you use web speak.

Here are some general questions to get the conversation going:

Do you use text speak (thx, u, etc)?

Do you use acronyms or abbreviations?

How do you use punctuation?

Do you use emojis or gifs, if so, are they punctuation, supporting imagery, something else?

Do you reference memes or gifs in conversation?

Does internet culture influence how you speak in real life?

What comes to mind when you think about web speak?

truffula



When looking for an emoticon gif, I reminded myself of another internet chat I participated in for a couple of years in 1998-1999... Palace chat.

This chat program got my son to say his very first two-word phrase: "Yellow face"! It was a milestone (he was slow to develop language skills).

The default avatars in this chat were essentially 3D emojis (although this was before emojis made it to popularity). Being the emoji was a really interesting way to chat, and allowed something between full avatar and mood indicator to be reflected. I liked it a lot.



palace chat screencap

talk lk u mean tu

some context u probs need:

my user name is fungii

to the left is my initial post n the others r

some of the responses



forums r this rlly specific place on the web where traditional grammar style is basically mandated. i would characterize it lk a business casual email so punctuation caps and spelling r all generally used altho there is the addition of imgs n gifs n the occasional emoji or acronym

it was rlly interesting to talk abt webspeak on a forum bc of this formality where lk we were all using traditional grammar structures but talkin abt if we use lol or nah also i got to hear from ppl from a few diff age groups (i talk regularly to someone w kids) n demographics i even got to talk about how webspeak is used in different languages

nayo

@Fungii

Hello, I'll try to help out too!



I actually try really hard not to use text speak. I think that comes from me largely texting with my mom, when I first got a phone, and although it was an awful 9 pad flip phone that took forever to spell things out, she wouldn't understand what I was saying unless I typed everything out. So that habit has kept with me. I don't think that's entirely usual though, as not only on texts but in some forums I've gotten comments that the way I type is peculiar. However, I do use etc. e.g. and i.e. but only because I also use those in papers or letters.



I occasionally use acronyms and abbreviations, but very rarely. Partly because I don't remember what they are sometimes! For example SMH, I thought that meant so much hate, for the looongest time, when I think it means shake my head. So I only use them with close friends.



I try to use punctuation; it really clarifies things for me.

I do not use emojis or gifs online. But I think that's more because it's kind of difficult to do on subeta and other platforms. Finding an image for me isn't that hard, but I don't feel like I need to search around for an appropriate gifs. Then making sure it works on the forums can be a bit difficult, so I think I'm just lazy.

Likewise I don't use memes or reference them. This is because I don't keep up with them.

The internet tends to influence my speech in real life through the utilization of new phrases. I'll find myself referencing things online in casual conversation. But overall, I think my online voice and real world voice are pretty synonymous.

When I think about web speak I think of a more free-form method of communication. A lot of the strict 'rules' of written language and spoken language are subverted. We don't need to introduce ourselves, say hello on each meeting, and grammar conventions can be a lot looser. I think of accessibility for the most part. Once you get used to some of the abbreviations, emojis, and such, practically anyone, within the language, can access what you are typing. It's rare for people online to use too high of a vocabulary, not for lack of intelligence to do so though, and because of that I think web chat is almost like a new dialect or language for the purpose of being accessible.



something interesting to note is one of the ppl who posted asserted a fear that emojis r takin over speech (prescriptivism lmao) n when met with a bit of backlash/ two ppl who disagreed w her, she deleted her post citing her being uncomfortable. but she then sent it to me thru smail which is a private mailing system on the site. this somehow feels completely in line w the culture of forums at least on this site, where while being super willing to help once challenged erasing any evidence, lk she's still wanted to talk to me but didn't want to have her opinions public

i think this rly speaks to a sort of formalization of anonymous culture on the web where opinions r divorced from self as an instinct to avoid disagreement

julie

@Fungii

Do you use text speak (thx, u, etc)? Yes, but sparingly. Usually it's LOL or OMG.

Do you use acronyms or abbreviations? Yes, but again, sparingly. Depends if I'm in a rush.

How do you use punctuation? I correct myself if I forget a comma. I use ... a lot. Too much really.

Do you use emojis or gifs, if so, are they punctuation, supporting imagery, something else? I use emojis but it's not abused. Usually at the end of a convo.

Do you reference memes or gifs in conversation? No.

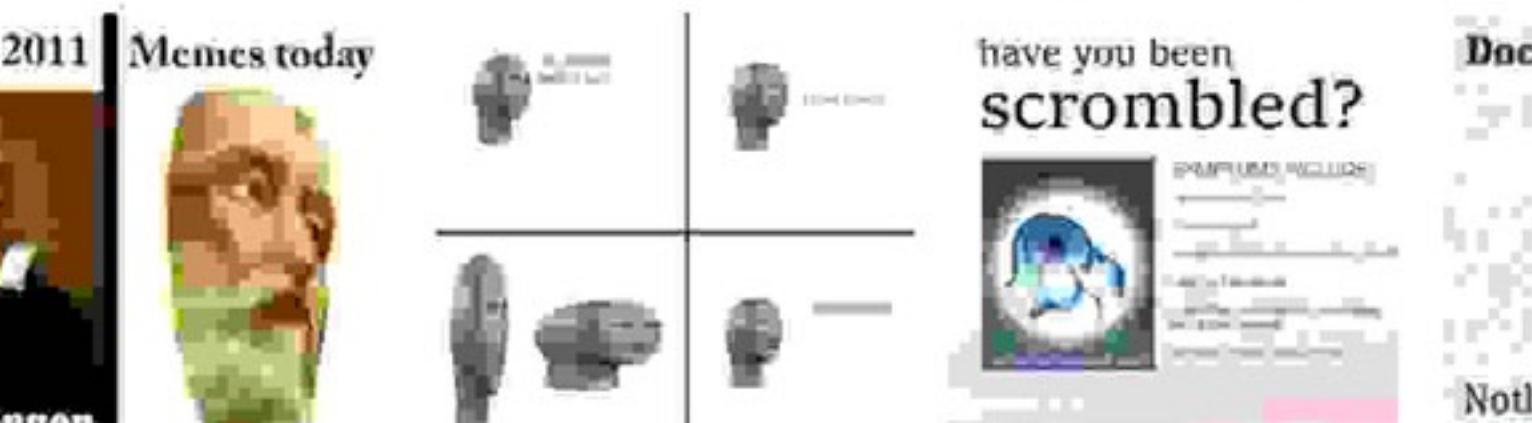
Does internet culture influence how you speak in real life? I do use OMG a lot.

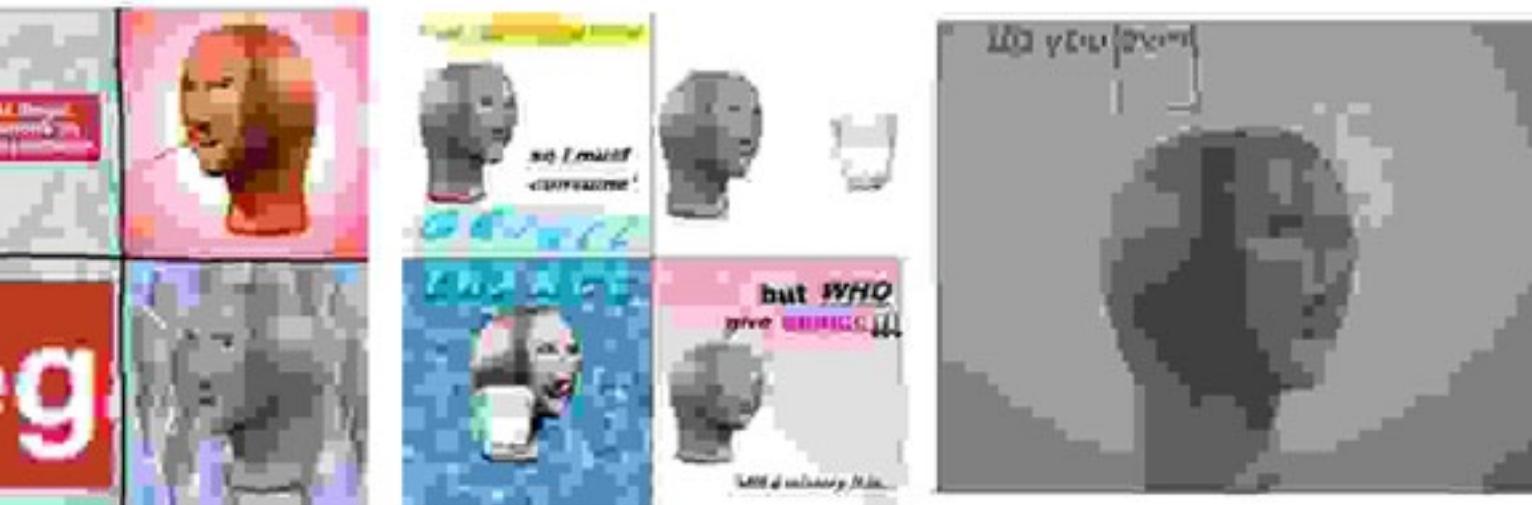
What comes to mind when you think about web speak? Shortcuts. Too busy to write out words.

I actually use web speak in my shortcuts on my smartphone, so I don't have to type it out.

Lives in the U.S. and my son is a senior in college too.







...there's a massive Dark
middle of your room

ink you mean

es of the deceased



Hello Mr orang



Hold a link a glass of



O no;



pecch



tors note: This meme is a placebo.



ing about this meme can be found

[here](#)

jungalo vs enio



WORLD CHAMPION

ENIO
SIME PAOLO



Find your own
style

Find your own
style



Find your own
style

DO YOU WANT TO
BECOME A CHAMPION

HOW WILL YOU
DO IT?

RICHTING

I AM FEELING



www.enio.com

www.enio.com

www.enio.com

www.enio.com

www.enio.com





glossary

asl - age / sex / location

bc - because

btw - by the way

copula - word that links subject and predicate
basically the verb ‘to be’ ex. ‘is’

cmc/edc - computer-mediated communication /
electronically-mediated communication

deixis - words that can't be understood w/o
additional context (pronouns- me/her, distance
- here/there, time - now/later, proximity -
near/far) semantic meaning is constant but

denotational is dependant on time/place

descriptivism - the recording of how language is actually used, rather than trying to define constraints

diphthong - two vowel sounds merged ‘coin’ ‘loud’

discourse particles - words that convey the tone of a statement

fml - fuck my life

gig - a filler word usually meaning thing or job

glide - aka a semivowel ‘yes’ ‘west’

hmu - hit me up

iconicity - the relationship between a symbol’s

form and meaning

idc - i dont care

idk - i dont know

ik - i know

illocutionary force - the intention of a speaker

imo - in my opinion

indexicality - a sign pointing to an object in its context

jk - just kidding

kms - kill myself

lmao - laugh my ass off

lmk - let me know

lol - laugh out loud

nucleus - middle of word or syllable

nm - not much

nvm - nevermind

og - original / original gangster

omg - oh my god

onset - consonant at the beginning of a syllable

p - pretty but only lk the adverb version

polysemous - word that can have multiple meanings

prescriptivism - the effort to lay down specific rules pertaining to grammar n linguistics,

often associated w a condescension towards
descriptivism

rhyme - aka rime part of a syllable nucleus plus
optional coda ‘at’ in ‘flat’ and ‘sat’

rp - roleplaying, a subculture of the web where
ppl interact thru imagined characters

smh - shake my head

stops - verbal stop ‘uh oh’

tbd - to be decided

tbh - to be honest

tmi - too much information

ty - thank you

v - very

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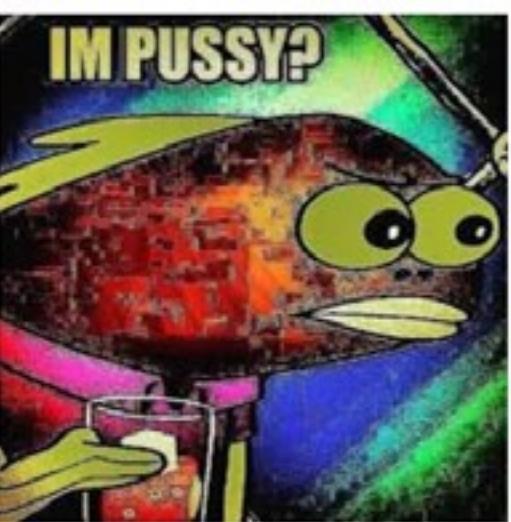
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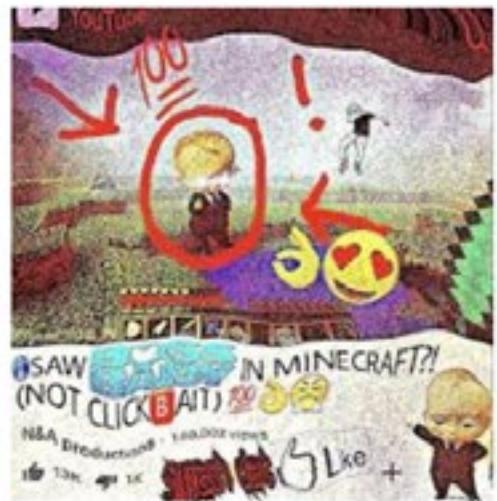
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colophon

this book was designed by selina gerosa for their senior undergrad graphic design thesis at boston university in 2018. this publication uses garamond regular, arial regular, roboto regular, and sf pro display





ed memes say hi



Special
Instructions:

None

Order Details
Order ID: 12345
Customer Name: John Doe
Phone Number: 123-4567
Address: 123 Main Street
City: Anytown, USA
Zip: 12345
Delivery Method: Standard
Delivery Time: 12:00 PM
Comments: None



Me: I'm only going to have one beer
then go home
Me after one beer:



yeah mo

or holding something in your
making sure not to drop it:



When someone asks if you control
the speed at which



I do not control the speed at which the ball rolls down the hill

Her: come over
Me: I can
Her: ok
Me:



g with beer tonight nothing

or



When you are too drunk to drive
home yourself...



When it's April 2nd and
she still pregnant



. The guy she tells you not to
about



Nurse: Sir, you have been in a coma for 3
years.

Patient: Wow, I am glad I finally recovered



I'm, I'm studying



I love finding these in my lunchbox



pure ANTI MEME

When you have something you want to show someone



"Simon says touch your head."
"Now touch your nose..."

When you're thi



11PM : Just one more video then I'll go to sleep

11:05PM :



in you're just a simple man, try take your way in the universe.



doc: any sexual activity?

guy: yes. 3 or 4 times a week

doc: that's great



Anti meme

CREATES MEME GROUP





say
feel

