

TEXTING FOR DUMMIES:

*The Official Guide to Understanding Texting,
& Text Messages*



By

The 3M's

*(Michael Wilkins, Sr., Michael Wilkins, Jr., &
Michael Wilkins, III)*

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P. O. Box 22

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(708) 785-7371

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Cover Design: Michael Wilkins, Jr.

Illustrations: Michael Wilkins, III

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Introduction

Once after receiving several text messages from my oldest son, and after several days of trying to find some way to figure out what a particular phrase or acronym had meant, without him accusing me of being “Square” or “Out of Touch” (and most of all “Un-Cool”), I finally broke down and asked him what the text word had meant. He told me and at my urging, shared a few more popular texting phrases (some of which caused me to blush) to get me up to speed with his generation.

After talking to many people who belonged to “My Generation” (Well over forty), many who had given up on ever making any sense out of the “Younger Generation’s” new method of communicating, I brought my twenty something son (**Michael Jr.**) along with my teenage son (**Michael, III**) together to provide a well rounded and user-friendly guide to helping those in any generation to understand and develop an unparallel ability to communicate with others, (that’s right even teenagers).

As a result we have developed an easy to read, easy to use and most of all easy to understand guide to texting and understanding the language of text messages and their meanings.

Please be warned that because profanity is often used in texting, while we do not promote the use of such language, we believe that it would be a dereliction of our responsibility, if we did not provide you with the meaning of these texted words.

I am reminded of a situation sometime ago when I was first learning to sign, since one of my nieces was deaf, so I asked the teacher to teach me the commonly used "bad" words. I went and asked my Sister in law at that time, if she was familiar with these words, she assured me that she was not and that her teenaged daughter (my niece) would not be either. So I told her to watch the expression of her daughters face when I used a particular "Bad" (sign) word, and she watched in shock and surprise as my niece put her hand over her mouth and laughed as she acknowledged that she did know the word, even though she quickly added that she did not use it, well not that often anyway.

My point is that just because you don't know or use a particular word, does not mean that your child (especially your teenaged child) does not know or use these words, or more importantly that these words exist. Furthermore, many of these words are used in a text code designed to keep adults in the dark, the text code is "KPC" (it means "keeping parents clueless") simply because most teens know that their parents remain clueless, so if for no other reason, we wrote this book in order to make sure you get a clue.

Since this is our first edition, we invite you (regardless as to your generation) to send us your text words, if they are not included here, we would like to include them in our next edition, since we are convinced that texting is here to stay, we are also convinced that the vocabulary and dictionary of text words will also continue to grow, so we invite you to send your "new" text word and definitions to us at www.wilkins-associates.com. Until then "hpy txtng" (Happy Texting)!

What Is Texting...



Texting refers to the abbreviated form of writing used on mobile phones and pagers with tiny screens and keyboards. **Texting** is typing and sending people very short messages which they can view on the readout screens of their cell phones or pagers.

It differs from email in two important respects: data input is via the key pad rather than a keyboard, [2] the technology currently limits the length of the message.

Using the **SMS** [short messaging service] is cheaper and often more convenient than actually calling everyone you know. You can send the same text message to multiple people so the technology can be used to reach many people at once, so it takes less time.

"You're talking about being able to access somebody no matter where they are, no matter what time of the day it is, no matter whether they're at work, at home or whether they're simply walking down the street," says Michael Wilkins, Jr.

Many Airlines has begun using text messaging by sending messages to passengers if their flights are delayed. Likewise, there are several Police Departments that are using text messengers instead of bulky computers to check license plates.

'The Revolution Will Be Texted'

Texting is currently the rage among the world's teenagers. In Britain, 77 percent of teens own cell phones, but they're texting on them, not talking.

"Text is really driving it, because the youngsters especially love the idea that they can do something a little bit secret," says Michael, III. . "It's really very much a young person's means of communicating."

Look around and you'll see more people texting, because it's cheap, it's cool and it's just like e-mail, except it's with you all the time. It's about information you need immediately at a certain time and location.

If you have any doubt that it's already changing our lives, think of Al Gore when he was in his motorcade on the way to concede the presidential election when his staff stopped him by sending him a text message.

Today, phones are getting smaller and lighter by the minute and people are doing a lot more with them than just talking. The dialing has stopped and the keying has started as text messaging has taken over, becoming the coolest and trendiest way of communicating.

Text messaging or SMS is quick, cheap and fun. Introduced in 1995 as a way of allowing phone networks to communicate important service messages to their subscribers, over the past two years text messaging has caught the imagination of mobile phone users all over the world and is now used by over 70% of them.

Almost one billion text messages are now sent every month in the UK. It is estimated that 100 million of these are work related, which means that nearly 900 million are not! The discreet element of sending a text message makes it a popular way to flirt and socialize. In December 2000, 756 million text messages were sent in Britain as we dumped the traditional Christmas card in favor of a seasonal text message.