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**Things You Should (Almost) Never Put in a Text**



OMG! Think hard before sending any of these messages

A. Understand emojis. Speaking of emojis, some may have a hidden meaning or slang. That eggplant emoji probably isn't really referring to the garden vegetable, nor is the peach just Georgia's favorite fruit. While we're at it, this smiling swirl of brown isn't soft-serve chocolate ice cream.

Avoid embarrassment and search Google to decode meanings of these and other emojis that are perhaps a bit spicier than what you have in mind. They're frequently not G-rated.

B. Be wary of abbreviations. Most people know LOL as shorthand for "laughing out loud," or "NP" for "no problem." But TBH (to be honest), it could become a problem when you appear to be trying too hard, using abbreviations without much thought or fully understanding their intent. If so, don't be surprised to get a response with SMH (shaking my head) or worse, STFU, which you'll have to look up on your own.

C. Don't write an opus. No one wants to read War and Peace as a text. Keep the message concise, so it is not answered

with an TL;DR (too long, didn't read).

D. Watch typos. "It" is different than "In," and we all make mistakes texting on the fly. But if you're communicating with an employer, client or customer, take an extra second to read the message before hitting Send. You don't want to leave a sloppy impression.

That said, given the generally casual nature of texting, the traditional rules of punctuation often don't apply. You can find plenty of chatter in social media about how adding a period at the end of a sentence within a text may come across as off-putting or negative.

E. Don't report a death. This is especially true if the deceased is someone close to the recipient. A text is no substitute for delivering devastating news face to face or over the phone.

There are exceptions, of course. If the recipient and person who has died have a bit more distance, it might be OK to pass along the news in a text, perhaps with details about memorial services. Apply common sense and consider how you would feel getting such news via text.

F. Don't end a relationship. Breaking up with someone via text is harsh, cowardly, cold and inconsiderate. The dreaded phrase "It's not you, it's me," might

come off even worse in a text.

"I do think for the most part break-ups should be over the phone or in person, as best they can be," Post says. "At the same time, letting someone you've been on two Tinder dates with know that you're not going to see them again is perfectly fine."

What seems private might not stay secure

Texts can be copied, screenshot, shared, and depending on the messaging system, may lack encryption or other stringent measures to keep everything private. Moreover, the contents may be inappropriate or misconstrued.

(Editor's Note: Check back week July 28 for more text messaging etiquette.)

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