

English Internet Acronyms

These 5 tasks will help students to get acquainted with modern Internet slang; practise reading the authentic articles, making up dialogues and using Internet acronyms. These activities are suitable for pre-intermediate and intermediate students, for groups and face to face lessons. Before starting the lesson discuss the questions with the students:

What an Internet acronym is? Which ones do you know?

1. Read the article and say what meaning the phrase "tbh" has nowadays.



"Tbh," the acronym that stands for "to be honest," has taken on a different meaning since it was first adopted by teens.

The Washington Post recently profiled a 13-year-old girl and focused on her social-media use. She explained that on Instagram, a "tbh" is used to say something nice about your friends. "[This girl] gets so many likes on her pictures because she's posted over nine pictures saying, 'Like all my pictures for a tbh, comment when done,'" she told The Washington Post. "So everyone will like her pictures, and she'll just give them a simple tbh."

While "tbh" still means "to be honest" or sometimes "to be heard", it's no longer associated with an insult ("I'm just being honest!"), but with compliments. In The Washington Post's example, the teen girl, after getting her likes, would then write a simple "tbh you're pretty" on commenters' pictures.

It was still a little confusing, so we turned to today's teens to break it down further for us. I asked a few Instagram-savvy high-schoolers to explain to me what a tbh means to them.

Sammy, a high-school freshman, tells Tech Insider that her friends will usually write "you're nice" or "you're funny" after tbh, and if they want to make a connection, sometimes they'll toss in a "we should talk more."

A tbh is almost like an Instagram currency — you can trade a tbh for a like on one of your photos.

2. Read again and finish the sentences:

1. "Tbh" is used to _____.
2. "Tbh" means _____.
3. The teen girl would then write _____ in gratitude for likes.
4. Sammy's friends usually write _____ after "tbh".
5. You can trade a tbh for _____.

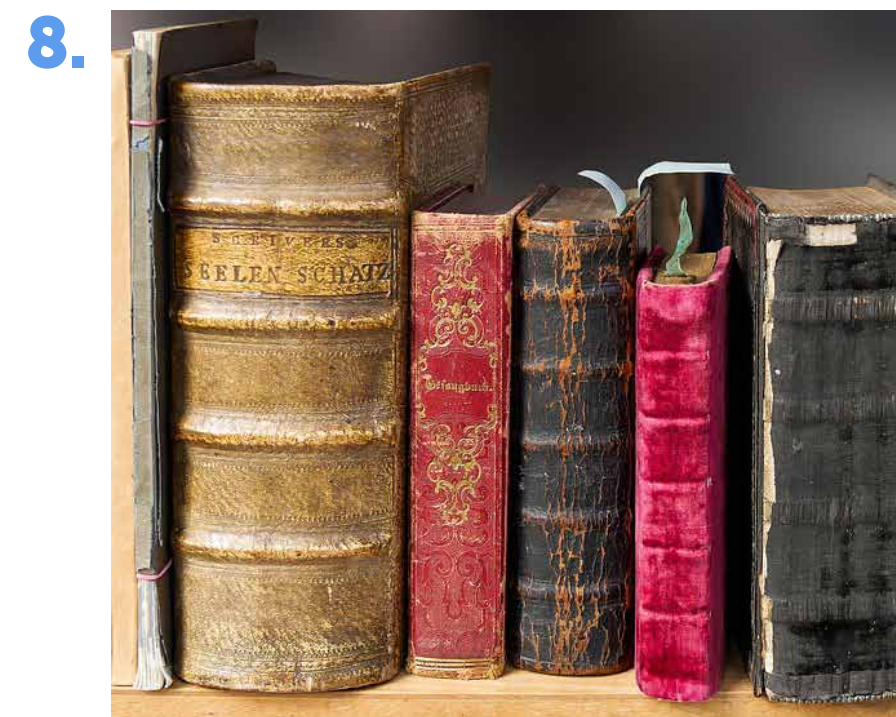
3. Read the SMS dialogue and choose the best acronym for the phrases in bold. Rewrite the dialogue with chosen acronyms.

LOL LU2 TTBOMK ppl SUP BFN ILU IRL TIA IDK IMHO ASAP CU

- Hello!
- Hi!
- What's up?
- I need a **Maths'** tutor as soon as possible. Do you know any good tutor in the real life? Thanks in advance!
- I don't know. In my **humble opinion**, you should ask people in the class.
- I am **laughing out loud**. They don't think about exams at all.
- To the best of my **knowledge**, my neighbour is a teacher of Maths. She can help you.
- Oh, I **love you**!
- Love you too!
- Bye for now.
- See you!

4. Match the acronyms with the pictures. Search in the Internet for unknown acronyms.

CU XOXO IG ILU ppl BF IDK IG IMHO



5. Play the game “An Absurd Talk”.

Rules.

1. Find a partner, prepare a pen and a sheet of paper.
2. Write a question on the top of the sheet and fold up the paper to hide it.
Give it to your partner.
3. The partner gets the sheet and writes any Internet acronym (<http://skio.ru/-dict/engsleng.php>) on the folded stripe of paper, then writes own question.
4. He/She folds the sheet to hide the reply and gives to you.
5. Do it in turns 6 times, then expand the sheet.
6. Enjoy your dialogue!

KEYS:

- 2.**
1. "Tbh" is used to say something nice about your friends.
 2. "Tbh" means "to be honest" or sometimes "to be heard".
 3. The teen girl would then write a simple "tbh you're pretty" on commenters' pictures in gratitude for likes.
 4. Sammy's friends usually write "you're nice" or "you're funny" after "tbh".
 5. You can trade a tbh for a like on one of your photos.

- 3.**
- Hello!
 - Hi!
 - SUP?
 - I need a Maths' tutor **ASAP**. Do you know any good tutor **IRL?TIA!**
 - **IDN. IMHO**, you should ask ppl in the class.
 - **LOL**. They don't think about exams at all.
 - **TTBOMK**, my neighbour is a teacher of Maths. She can help you.
 - Oh, **ILU**
 - **LU2!**
 - **BFN**.
 - **CU!**

- 4.**
- 1) ppl
 - 2) XOXO
 - 3) ILU
 - 4) CU
 - 5) IDK
 - 6) BF
 - 7) IG
 - 8) TMI
 - 9) IMHO