

A new study suggests that people who abbreviate their text messages might seem insincere. In addition, they might be less likely to receive replies. Researchers from Stanford University in the USA and the University of Toronto in Canada analyzed 5,000 text messages to gauge the impact of abbreviations. Test participants had to rate their perceived sincerity of messages with and without abbreviations. They also evaluated their likelihood of responding. The researchers said: "Abbreviations make senders seem less sincere and recipients less likely to write back." They added: "Abbreviations signal a lower level of effort from the sender."

Abbreviations in text messages and social media comments have evolved into a distinct genre of writing. The first text message was sent in 1992. Since then, a system of abbreviated text has developed that is largely understood and widely used. Many abbreviations are now in dictionaries. Truncated terms like "fyi," "cul8r," and "imho" are commonplace in text messages. Of course, these mean "for your information," "see you later," and "in my humble opinion". Researcher David Fang said: "We thought texters might like abbreviations because they would convey an informal sense of closeness, so we were surprised that abbreviations elicited negative perceptions about people who use them."

How important are these forms of writing?

| | How Important? | Your Ability |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Academic essays | | |
| Stories | | |
| Letters | | |
| Social media posts | | |
| Text messages | | |
| Job applications | | |

Paragraph 1

| | | | |
|---|---------------|----|--|
| 1 | abbreviate | a. | The chance or possibility that something will happen. |
| 2 | insincere | b. | A sign or action that gives information, or to give a sign or message. |
| 3 | gauge (verb) | c. | To make a word or phrase shorter by using only the first few letters or parts of the word. |
| 4 | perceived | d. | Not being honest or truthful; when someone doesn't really mean what they say. |
| 5 | likelihood | e. | How something is understood or thought of by people. |
| 6 | recipients | f. | People who receive something, like a gift or a message. |
| 7 | signal (verb) | g. | To measure or find out how much or how good something is. |

Paragraph 2

| | | | |
|----|-----------|----|--|
| 8 | evolved | h. | To show or express something. |
| 9 | distinct | i. | Not thinking you are better than others; modest. |
| 10 | genre | j. | Shortened by cutting off part of something. |
| 11 | truncated | k. | Changed or developed over a long period of time. |
| 12 | humble | l. | Caused a reaction or response. |
| 13 | convey | m. | Clearly different or easy to notice. |
| 14 | elicited | n. | A type or category of something, especially music, books, or movies. |