ONLINE LANGUAGE: A guide for parents

The swift and extensive distribution of information through social media has led to the rapid evolution of language. The language children and young people are using is constantly changing. We've compiled several terms that might be unfamiliar to you. Having a grasp of these and understanding the context in which they are being used can help parents support children to safely navigate some of the greyer aspects of the online world.

CAUTION: These terms may have become outdated by the time you read them!

General

AF As f**k

AFAIK As far as I know
AFK Away from keyboard
ATM At the moment

Bae Significant other or crush
Bet Okay, sure, or I agree.
Bih Short form of b*tch
BRB Be right back
BTW By the way
Cappin' Lying

No Cap / Cap No Lie / Lie or exaggeration.

Catfishing Pretending to be someone else online.

Dope Something extremely cool

F2F or FTF Face to face
Fam Friends

IYKYK

FINSTA Fake Instagram account

Flex Showing off wealth, looks, or status.

Ghosting Cutting off all communication without explanation.

GOAT Greatest of All Time.

IDK / TMI I Don't Know / Too Much Information.
IRL In Real Life – Refers to offline activities.

Karen Stereotype for entitled or unreasonable adult behaviour.

LOL / LMAO / ROFL Laugh Out Loud / Laughing My A** Off / Rolling on the Floor Laughing.

Main / Alt Primary or alternative social media accounts.

Ratio More replies than likes – usually shows disapproval.

Receipts Evidence (e.g., screenshots) used to prove or expose something.

Rizz Short for charisma – often refers to someone's ability to flirt or attract others confidently.

If You Know, You Know - Refers to inside jokes or niche info.

Salty
Bitter or upset over something small.
Savage
Bold or ruthless action or comment.

Ship Wanting two people to be in a relationship.

Slay Doing something impressively well.

Slide into DMs
Snatched / Drip / Fire
Stan
Flirting or starting a private conversation.
Compliments: Stylish, cool, or amazing.
Being a devoted fan of someone.

Suspicious or shady behaviour.

Tea Gossip or drama.

Thirsty Desperate for attention, often romantically.

YOLO You Only Live Once - Often used to justify risky behaviour.

Safeguarding Children
Child Safeguarding Week: Resource

Drugs

For Parents

420 Marijuana
Broken Hangover from alcohol
CID Acid
DOC Drug of choice
Molly Ecstasy/MDMA

CD9

KPC

Keeping parents clueless

MOS

Mum over shoulder

PAW

Parents are watching

PIR

Parent in room

POS

Parent over shoulder

Sexual

"Are you down?"

ASL

DTF

Baddie / Hot Girl

Body count Daddy

E-Girl / E-Boy

FBOI FWB

GNOC GYPO

Hentai IWSN

Link in bio

LMIRL LMP

Netflix and chill

NIFOC OnlyFans

Pick-Me Girl/Boy Skeet

Smash Swoop TDTM Thice

Thirst Trap

Thot WAP Asking if someone is open to sex.

Age/sex/location

Trendy, confident personas sometimes overly sexualised in younger users.

The number of people someone has slept with

An attractive man, usually older, who conveys a sense of power and dominance

Down to f*ck

Youth subcultures known for stylised, flirtatious, sometimes suggestive content.

F*ck boy, a guy just looking for sex

Friends with benefits
Get naked on camera
Get your pants off

Graphic anime pornography

I want sex now

Often links to adult or explicit content.

Let's meet in real life
Like my pic/lick my p*ssy
Implies a sexual encounter.
Nude in front of a computer

Subscription platform often associated with adult content.

Criticising someone who seeks validation from the opposite sex.

To ejaculate
To have casual sex

To be picked up in a car

Talk dirty to me

Having an attractive body

Photos/videos designed to attract sexual attention.

That ho over there, used instead of 'slut'

Wet ass p*ssy



Emojis



₩ / **७** / **७** / **७**

18+ / 53X / SX / S3X

a

(Nail polish)

•• / 🔅

0

● Brain / ●禁 "Big Brain" / "Galaxy Brain

Fist Punch + Explosion

Eggplant = penis, peach = butt, droplets = ejaculation.

Flirtatious or sexually suggestive.

Ways to hint at sexual content.

Snake calling someone a backstabber, fake, or manipulative.

While harmless in many contexts, in bullying language it's sometimes Sometimes used sarcastically to mock someone's appearance or behaviour

Often used to mock someone for being "cringe" or embarrassing. "I'm dead "" = sarcastic "that's so embarrassing/funny."

Can be used sarcastically to indicate awkwardness, discomfort, or judgment. Often used in passive-aggressive or mocking ways.

"Red-pilled" means someone believes they've been "woken up" to a supposedly hidden truth — often used to promote misogynistic, anti-government, or extremist ideologies.

A darker evolution of the red pill idea, "black-pilled" users tend to express hopelessness, nihilism, or rage toward society, especially women.

Used sarcastically to mock others as "stupid" or to present their own toxi opinions as superior intelligence.

Often paired in memes or comments to depict verbal "attacks" or cyberbullying, mocking or "destroying" someone in an argument.

Tips for parents

- Emojis don't always mean bullying context is everything.
- If you see these used repeatedly in posts, group chats, or DMs that include sarcasm, targeting, or exclusion, it's worth asking your child about the tone or meaning behind them.
- Encourage open conversations: "I noticed you used that emoji, what does it mean to you and your friends?"