

## IDK if You Really H8IT Unless You Spell it Out

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With the recent increase in text messaging, many people have incorporated new abbreviations into their vocabularies. It is important to know if those abbreviations are interpreted in the same way as the words they represent. While evidence suggests that abbreviations convey meaning, it is unclear whether or not they adequately convey emotional information. It is possible that, because they are learned later in life, abbreviations are processed like words from a second language – which have been shown to elicit attenuated emotional responses. In two experiments using an emotional Stroop task, interference was readily obtained for emotional words and phrases (e.g., *I hate it*), but no effect was found for emotional abbreviations (e.g., *IH8IT*). This was true even for frequent texters. These results suggest that emotional text-messaging abbreviations do not readily elicit emotional responses and may be functionally similar to words learned later in life from a second language.