

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

## **OMG, LOL, FYI now in Oxford English Dictionary**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

### **Contents**

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

26th March, 2011

# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

We all use them when we send text messages; now they have been included in the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). They are the online abbreviations OMG, "oh my God"; LOL, "laughing out loud"; FYI, "for your information; and IMHO, "in my humble opinion". The OED calls them "initialisms" because they are made up of initials. Young people know and use thousands of these shortcuts on social media sites like Twitter and when sending SMS texts. They are useful when there is a limit on the number of characters used in a message. An OED editor, Graeme Diamond, believes there's more to initialisms than simply saving space in messages. He thinks young people use them to show irony.

Mr Diamond, who is responsible for allowing new words into the OED, said one of the initialisms, "OMG," was not so new as it was included in a letter written in 1917. New entries in the OED include "ego surfing" – the practice of searching your own name on the Internet, and the "five-second rule," that "allows for the eating of a delicious morsel that has fallen to the floor, provided that it is retrieved within the specified period of time". Lexicographers also decided that the term "muffin top" deserved an entry. This is defined as "a protuberance of flesh above the waistband of a tight pair of trousers". It's also known as "spare tyre" or "love handle". The dictionary has also included the heart symbol <3 meaning "love".

# WARM-UPS

**1. DICTIONARIES:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about dictionaries. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*text messages / dictionary / abbreviations / OMG / LOL / shortcuts / social media / new words / ego / surfing / the five-second rule / muffins / flesh / heart symbol / love*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. WORDS:** What's the best way to learn words? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Pros	Cons
Dictionaries		
Flash cards		
Vocab notebooks		
Online sites		
Pictures		
Word families		

**4. LANGUAGE:** Students A **strongly** believe terms like OMG, LOL, etc are leading to poorer quality language; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. NEW WORDS:** Which of these do you like best, and why? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- LOL
- five-second rule
- IMHO
- muffin top
- OMG
- <3
- FYI
- singledom

**6. TEXT MESSAGES:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the term 'text messages'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |                                                                            |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. There is a new dictionary just for people who text message.             | T / F |
| b. One of the new "initialisms" is "OED".                                  | T / F |
| c. Young people know thousands of words that are shortcuts.                | T / F |
| d. There is more than one reason why people use "initialisms".             | T / F |
| e. "OMG" is almost one hundred years old.                                  | T / F |
| f. "Ego surfing" has nothing to do with being online.                      | T / F |
| g. The five-second rule is about picking food off the floor and eating it. | T / F |
| h. A "spare tyre" can also be a "love handle" or a "muffin top".           | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. latest    | a. modest          |
| 2. edition   | b. merited         |
| 3. humble    | c. sarcasm         |
| 4. limit     | d. got back        |
| 5. irony     | e. self-importance |
| 6. ego       | f. newest          |
| 7. retrieved | g. stated          |
| 8. deserved  | h. version         |
| 9. specified | i. figure-hugging  |
| 10. tight    | j. maximum         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. We all use them when we send   | a. words into the OED     |
| 2. they have been included        | b. period of time         |
| 3. shortcuts on                   | c. to show irony          |
| 4. a limit on the number          | d. tight pair of trousers |
| 5. young people use them          | e. meaning "love"         |
| 6. responsible for allowing new   | f. social media sites     |
| 7. ego                            | g. text messages          |
| 8. retrieved within the specified | h. surfing                |
| 9. the waistband of a             | i. in the latest edition  |
| 10. the heart symbol <3           | j. of characters used     |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

We all use them when we send text (1) \_\_\_\_\_; now they have been included in the latest (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). They are the online abbreviations OMG, "oh my God"; LOL, "laughing out (3) \_\_\_\_\_"; FYI, "for your information; and IMHO, "in my (4) \_\_\_\_\_ opinion". The OED calls them "initialisms" because they are made up of initials. Young people know and use thousands of these (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on social media sites like Twitter and when sending SMS texts. They are useful when there is a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on the number of characters used in a message. An OED editor, Graeme Diamond, believes there's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to initialisms than simply saving space in messages. He thinks young people use them to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ irony.

Mr Diamond, who is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for allowing new words into the OED, said one of the initialisms, "OMG," was not so new as it was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in a letter written in 1917. New entries in the OED include "ego surfing" - the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of searching your own name on the Internet, and the "five-second rule," that "allows for the eating of a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ morsel that has fallen to the floor, provided that it is retrieved within the specified period of (13) \_\_\_\_\_ ". Lexicographers also decided that the term "muffin top" deserved an (14) \_\_\_\_\_. This is defined as "a protuberance of (15) \_\_\_\_\_ above the waistband of a tight pair of trousers". It's also known as "spare tyre" or "love handle". The dictionary has also included the heart (16) \_\_\_\_\_ <3 meaning "love".

*humble*

*show*

*edition*

*more*

*messages*

*shortcuts*

*loud*

*limit*

*time*

*practice*

*flesh*

*included*

*symbol*

*responsible*

*entry*

*delicious*

## **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

\_\_\_\_\_ send text messages; now they have been included in the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). They are the online abbreviations OMG, "oh my God"; LOL, "laughing out loud"; FYI, "for your information; and IMHO, "\_\_\_\_\_". The OED calls them "initialisms" because they \_\_\_\_\_. Young people know and use thousands of these shortcuts \_\_\_\_\_ like Twitter and when sending SMS texts. They are useful when there is a limit on the \_\_\_\_\_ used in a message. An OED editor, Graeme Diamond, believes there's more to initialisms than simply saving space in messages. He thinks young people \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr Diamond, who is responsible \_\_\_\_\_ into the OED, said one of the initialisms, "OMG," was not so new as it was included in a letter written in 1917. New entries in the OED \_\_\_\_\_ - the practice of searching your own name on the Internet, and the "five-second rule," that "allows for the eating \_\_\_\_\_ that has fallen to the floor, provided that it is retrieved within the specified period of time". Lexicographers also decided that the term "muffin top" \_\_\_\_\_. This is defined as "a protuberance of flesh above the waistband \_\_\_\_\_ trousers". It's also known as "spare tyre" or "love handle". The dictionary \_\_\_\_\_ heart symbol <3 meaning "love".

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'text' and 'message'.

text	message

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• latest</li><li>• loud</li><li>• initials</li><li>• social</li><li>• limit</li><li>• show</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• responsible</li><li>• letter</li><li>• surfing</li><li>• delicious</li><li>• deserved</li><li>• symbol</li></ul>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# STUDENT DICTIONARIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dictionaries in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# DICTIONARIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'dictionary'?
- c) What do you think of dictionaries?
- d) Do you prefer to use an English-English dictionary or a bilingual one?
- e) What do you think of "initialisms"?
- f) Do you like the terms OMG and LOL?
- g) How important are initialisms to you when you type text messages?
- h) What shortcuts do you use in your own language?
- i) Do you think initialisms should be included in dictionaries?
- j) Do you think older people are confused by initialisms?

*OMG, LOL, FYI now in Oxford English Dictionary – 26th March, 2011*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

# DICTIONARIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Would you like Graeme Diamond's job?
- c) Have you ever tried "ego surfing" - typing your name in a search box?
- d) Have you heard of the five-second rule before? Do you agree with it?
- e) What do you think of the term "muffin top"?
- f) Which is the best term – "muffin top", "love handle" or spare tyre"?
- g) Do you like / use the heart symbol <3? Do you think it should be included in the Oxford English Dictionary.
- h) What are your three favourite English words?
- i) Do you prefer online or paper dictionaries?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Graeme Diamond?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

We all use them when we send text messages; now they have been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). They are the online (2) \_\_\_\_\_ OMG, "oh my God"; LOL, "laughing out loud"; FYI, "for your information"; and IMHO, "in my humble opinion". The OED calls them "initialisms" because they are made (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of initials. Young people know and use thousands of these shortcuts on social media sites like Twitter and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sending SMS texts. They are useful when there is a limit (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the number of characters used in a message. An OED editor, Graeme Diamond, believes there's more to initialisms than simply saving space in messages. He thinks young people use them to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ irony.

Mr Diamond, who is responsible for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ new words into the OED, said one of the initialisms, "OMG," was not so new as it was included in a letter written in 1917. New entries in the OED include "ego surfing" – the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of searching your own name on the Internet, and the "five-second rule," that "allows for the eating of a delicious (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that has fallen to the floor, provided that it is retrieved within the specified period (10) \_\_\_\_\_ time". Lexicographers also decided that the term "muffin top" deserved an entry. This is defined as "a protuberance of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ above the waistband of a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ pair of trousers". It's also known as "spare tyre" or "love handle". The dictionary has also included the heart symbol <3 meaning "love".

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                 |                   |                  |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) included   | (b) inclusive   | (c) including     | (d) includes     |
| 2.  | (a) abbreviate | (b) abbreviated | (c) abbreviations | (d) abbreviation |
| 3.  | (a) in         | (b) on          | (c) at            | (d) up           |
| 4.  | (a) where      | (b) when        | (c) from          | (d) which        |
| 5.  | (a) in         | (b) at          | (c) by            | (d) on           |
| 6.  | (a) watch      | (b) get         | (c) show          | (d) learn        |
| 7.  | (a) allows     | (b) allowing    | (c) allowed       | (d) allow        |
| 8.  | (a) practice   | (b) trying      | (c) limit         | (d) study        |
| 9.  | (a) morsels    | (b) measles     | (c) muscles       | (d) missiles     |
| 10. | (a) at         | (b) in          | (c) of            | (d) on           |
| 11. | (a) flush      | (b) mush        | (c) mesh          | (d) flesh        |
| 12. | (a) large      | (b) tight       | (c) designer      | (d) dirty        |

OMG, LOL, FYI now in Oxford English Dictionary – 26th March, 2011

More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) - Copyright Sean Banville 2011



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about dictionaries. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TEXT MESSAGE SHORTCUTS:** Make a poster about the different shortcuts you use with text messages. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. INITIALISMS:** Write a magazine article about initialisms. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to a lexicographer. Ask him/her three questions about dictionaries and new words. Give him/her three ideas on how to make dictionaries better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. F      c. T      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. latest    | a. newest          |
| 2. edition   | b. version         |
| 3. humble    | c. modest          |
| 4. limit     | d. maximum         |
| 5. irony     | e. sarcasm         |
| 6. ego       | f. self-importance |
| 7. retrieved | g. got back        |
| 8. deserved  | h. merited         |
| 9. specified | i. stated          |
| 10. tight    | j. figure-hugging  |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. We all use them when we send   | a. text messages          |
| 2. they have been included        | b. in the latest edition  |
| 3. shortcuts on                   | c. social media sites     |
| 4. a limit on the number          | d. of characters used     |
| 5. young people use them          | e. to show irony          |
| 6. responsible for allowing new   | f. words into the OED     |
| 7. ego                            | g. surfing                |
| 8. retrieved within the specified | h. period of time         |
| 9. the waistband of a             | i. tight pair of trousers |
| 10. the heart symbol <3           | j. meaning "love"         |

## GAP FILL:

### OMG, LOL, FYI now in Oxford English Dictionary

We all use them when we send text (1) **messages**; now they have been included in the latest (2) **edition** of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). They are the online abbreviations OMG, "oh my God"; LOL, "laughing out (3) **loud**"; FYI, "for your information; and IMHO, "in my (4) **humble** opinion". The OED calls them "initialisms" because they are made up of initials. Young people know and use thousands of these (5) **shortcuts** on social media sites like Twitter and when sending SMS texts. They are useful when there is a (6) **limit** on the number of characters used in a message. An OED editor, Graeme Diamond, believes there's (7) **more** to initialisms than simply saving space in messages. He thinks young people use them to (8) **show** irony.

Mr Diamond, who is (9) **responsible** for allowing new words into the OED, said one of the initialisms, "OMG," was not so new as it was (10) **included** in a letter written in 1917. New entries in the OED include "ego surfing" – the (11) **practice** of searching your own name on the Internet, and the "five-second rule," that "allows for the eating of a (12) **delicious** morsel that has fallen to the floor, provided that it is retrieved within the specified period of (13) **time**". Lexicographers also decided that the term "muffin top" deserved an (14) **entry**. This is defined as "a protuberance of (15) **flesh** above the waistband of a tight pair of trousers". It's also known as "spare tyre" or "love handle". The dictionary has also included the heart (16) **symbol** <3 meaning "love".

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a    2 - c    3 - d    4 - b    5 - d    6 - c    7 - b    8 - a    9 - a    10 - c    11 - d    12 - b

OMG, LOL, FYI now in Oxford English Dictionary – 26th March, 2011

More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) - Copyright Sean Banville 2011