

Gen Z & Gen Alpha Group-Chat Pragmatics: Hedging, Hyperbole & Irony

A Classroom-Safe Reference Guide to High-Frequency Texting and Messaging Expressions
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All SlangLane Academic Working Papers & PDFs: <https://slanglane.com/papers>

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Abstract & Scope

An open reference guide to high-frequency group-chat and texting expressions (cooked, delulu, lowkey, no cap, bet, mid, ate, rent-free, rizz, side quest, ick, pookie, unc, glazing, crash out). Explains pragmatic hedging, hyperbolic irony, and register boundaries for educators, parents, and NLP researchers.

Interactive Companion Tools on SlangLane.com

Slang Age & Brain-Rot Diagnostic Lab: <https://slanglane.com/vibe-check>

Corporate Email <-> Gen Z Group-Chat Translator: <https://slanglane.com/roast>

Court & HR Legal Exhibit Stamp Generator: <https://slanglane.com/exhibit>

5x5 Classroom & Meeting Slang Bingo: <https://slanglane.com/bingo>

Side-by-Side Usage Comparisons (A vs. B): <https://slanglane.com/compare>

Indexed Thematic Entries (41 Headwords, Edition daily-2026-10-21)

1. ate (aliases: ate that, ate and left no crumbs, left no crumbs) -

[Internet essentials | Enthusiastic praise]

Performed brilliantly, looked excellent, or completely delivered. "Ate and left no crumbs" intensifies the compliment. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/ate>

2. aura (aliases: aura points, aura loss, negative aura) - [Internet essentials | Playful evaluative]

An impression of coolness, confidence, or striking presence. "Aura points" turn that impression into a joking, imaginary score. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/aura>

3. aura farming (aliases: aura farm, aura farmer) - [Internet essentials | Admiring or teasing]

Cultivating an effortlessly cool image through a pose, gesture, performance, or carefully timed moment. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/aura-farming>

4. based - [Internet essentials | informal]

based: praiseworthy despite being unpopular or controversial. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/based>

5. bet (aliases: aight bet) - [Internet essentials | Casual affirmative]

"Okay," "agreed," "sounds good," or "challenge accepted." The tone depends on what the speaker is responding to. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/bet>

6. brain rot (aliases: brainrot, brain-rotted, brain rot content) - [Internet essentials | Critical or self-mocking]

Low-value, repetitive online content, or the feeling of being mentally saturated by it. Also a joking name for an intense fandom obsession. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/brain-rot>

7. Chad - [Internet essentials | Admiring, ironic or status-focused]

An internet archetype of a highly attractive, sexually successful man; in a meme, the label can express exaggerated admiration or contrast. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/chad>

8. cooked (aliases: we are cooked, i'm cooked, am I cooked) - [Internet essentials | Dramatic usually negative]

In serious trouble, exhausted, defeated, or beyond an easy fix. "Am I cooked?" asks whether the situation is hopeless. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/cooked>

9. crash out - [Internet essentials | Anger-related slang / ambiguous]

To lose control in anger or act recklessly with serious consequences; separately, to fall asleep from exhaustion, fail or be eliminated. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/crash-out>

10. cringe - [Internet essentials | context-dependent]

cringe: feel embarrassed, disgusted, or fearful. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/cringe>

11. cringey - [Internet essentials | context-dependent]

In plain English, "cringey": embarrassing. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/cringey>

12. delulu (aliases: delulu is the solulu) - [Internet essentials | Playful can be dismissive]

An exaggerated, informal version of "delusional": unrealistically hopeful, imagining a connection, or choosing confidence over the available evidence. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/delulu>

13. FR (aliases: fr, frfr, for real, for real for real) - [Texting shorthand | Casual sincere or questioning]

"For real": an emphasis on sincerity, a strong agreement, or a surprised question meaning "seriously?" | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/fr>

14. FWIW - [Texting shorthand | informal]

In plain English, "FWIW": for what it's worth. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/fwiw>

15. glazing (aliases: glaze) - [Internet essentials | Disapproving or self-mocking praise label]

Giving someone or something excessive praise; the label suggests the admiration is over the top, unwarranted or annoying. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/glazing>

16. goated - [Internet essentials | informal praise]

A slang description for someone or something considered the greatest of all time or the best. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/goated>

17. highkey (aliases: high-key, high key, highk) - [Internet essentials | Emphatic openly stated]

"Really," "openly," or "without trying to play it down." It turns an opinion or feeling into a more direct declaration. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/highkey>

18. ICYMI - [Texting shorthand | internet slang]

ICYMI expands to 'in case you missed it,' introducing information for a reader who may have missed it. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/icymi>

19. IDK - [Texting shorthand | informal]

In plain English, "IDK": I don't know. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/idk>

20. IMO - [Texting shorthand | informal]

In plain English, "IMO": in my opinion. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/imo>

21. IYKYK (aliases: if you know you know, iyykyk) - [Texting shorthand | Knowing inside reference]

"If you know, you know": a signal that people with the shared experience or background will understand an unstated reference. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/iyykyk>

22. locked in (aliases: lock in, locking in, locked-in) - [Internet essentials | Focused motivational]

Fully focused and committed to a task. "Time to lock in" means it is time to stop distractions and concentrate. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/locked-in>

23. looksmaxxing - [Internet essentials | Appearance-focused community vocabulary]

Trying to improve physical appearance, especially within online communities that frame attractiveness as a competitive status or dating advantage. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/looksmaxxing>

24. lowkey (aliases: low-key, low key, lowk, lwk) - [Internet essentials | Understated informal]

"Kind of," "quietly," or "I am admitting this without making a big deal of it." A low-key event is also relaxed or understated. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/lowkey>

25. mewing - [Internet essentials | Appearance-trend vocabulary / ambiguous]

A tongue-posture practice pursued with the aim of changing jaw or facial appearance; also the ordinary act of making a mew sound. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mewing>

26. mid - [Internet essentials | Dismissive evaluative]

Mediocre, underwhelming, or not worth the hype. Usually a criticism, even though it literally suggests the middle. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mid>

27. mogging - [Internet essentials | Comparative / appearance-ranking slang]

Outshining or appearing superior to someone, especially in perceived physical attractiveness; a subjective comparison rather than an objective score. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mogging>

28. no cap (aliases: nocap, no capping) - [Internet essentials | Informal emphatic]

"Honestly," "for real," or "I am not exaggerating." Cap means a lie or an exaggeration in this slang context. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/no-cap>

29. OMW - [Texting shorthand | informal]

In plain English, "OMW": on my way. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/omw>

30. POV (aliases: point of view, pov) - [Texting shorthand | Perspective scenario framing]

"Point of view." In captions, it usually introduces a situation the viewer is invited to imagine experiencing. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/pov>

31. rizz (aliases: rizz up, rizzing, rizzed, unspoken rizz) - [Internet essentials | Playful usually flattering]

Charm or the ability to attract someone, especially through flirting. To "rizz someone up" is to try to win them over. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/rizz>

32. sigma - [Internet essentials | Ironic or status-focused internet language]

A self-sufficient lone-wolf male archetype; also praise meaning excellent, or a deliberately absurd word in memes such as "what the sigma." | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/sigma>

33. simp - [Internet essentials | Derogatory or self-mocking]

Someone accused of excessive devotion or deference to another person; as a verb, to admire or praise in an exaggerated, deferential way. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/simp>

34. six seven (aliases: 67, 6-7, 6 7, six-seven) - [Internet essentials | Absurdist context-dependent]

A meme expression usually said "six seven," often with a balancing hand gesture. It has no single fixed literal meaning. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/six-seven>

35. skibidi - [Internet essentials | Absurd meme language]

A deliberately nonsensical meme word used for humorous effect, reactions or references to internet slang; it has no single dependable plain-English meaning. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/skibidi>

36. slay (aliases: slayed, slaying) - [Internet essentials | Enthusiastic approving]

To do something impressively well or look excellent. "Slay!" is an enthusiastic expression of approval. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/slay>

37. sus (aliases: sussy) - [Internet essentials | Suspicious often joking]

Suspicious, questionable, or not quite trustworthy. It can be a genuine concern or a playful reaction to odd behavior. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/sus>

38. TBH - [Texting shorthand | informal]

In plain English, "TBH": to be honest. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/tbh>

39. TL;DR (aliases: tl;dr, TLDR, tldr, too long didnt read, too long; didn't read) - [Texting shorthand | Concise sometimes dismissive]

"Too long; didn't read." It can dismiss a long message, but is also a common label for a short summary supplied by the writer. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/tldr>

40. unc - [Internet essentials | Affectionate or teasing age-related slang]

A shortening of uncle; also a teasing label for an older man or somebody seen as out of touch with current youth culture. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/unc>

41. W (aliases: w) - [Internet essentials | internet slang]

In internet slang, W abbreviates win: a success or winning result. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/w>