

## So little time, so much texting

When's the last time you sat at a meeting without someone **tapping** at their mobile? **Multitasking** has reached new heights, thanks to the features on our phones that tempt us to send text messages and check e-mails.

Now, instead of listening to the meeting details, we **tune in** when something is important to us. We've even learned a whole new language along the way.

Everyone knows the **ubiquitous** smiley, :-), but there's also the **tongue-tied** face, :-&, and the skeptic, :-/. And these are just the tip of the iceberg in fun ways to communicate and **emote** in a hurry.

Does WRUD mean anything to you? How about TMI? If you're **stumped**, go ask a teenager, the respective kings and queens of text messaging. After they're done rolling their eyes, they'll tell you that WRUD is short for: 'What are you doing now?' Use TMI (as in, 'too much information') when you've heard enough.

Are our **attention spans** getting shorter? Maybe. We don't just watch the news these days; we also watch streaming news clips below it. While eating dinner. While talking on the phone. While untying our kid's shoelaces.

And now, thanks to ever-shorter online messaging systems such as Twitter, texting is reaching a new art form.

So, TTYL! For you dinosaurs, that's 'Talk to you later!'

## Glossary

<b>attention span</b>	the length of time you can concentrate on an idea or activity
<b>emote</b>	display emotions in an excessive or theatrical manner
<b>multitasking</b>	carrying out two or more tasks at the same time
<b>stumped</b>	confused
<b>tap</b>	hit the buttons
<b>tongue-tied</b>	unable to speak; at a loss for words
<b>tune in</b>	here: to pay attention; to adjust (a radio/television) to receive (a program)
<b>ubiquitous</b>	being present everywhere at once