Many people use chat slang to save time and show emotions. However, it can be frustrating and embarrassing when someone doesn't understand it. A good cyber citizen is sensitive to other people's feelings and expertise and communicates in a way they will understand:

**Acronyms**
Acronyms like BRB, LOL, and FYI are abbreviated versions of phrases like Be Right Back, Laugh Out Loud, and For Your Information. They are much faster than typing out the entire phrase, and can be very useful when text messaging.

**Emoticons**
Emoticons, from the words "emotion" and "icon", are facial expressions or other pictures created with letters and punctuation symbols. Many emoticons, like :-) and >:-( are meant to be read sideways, and can be a fun way to show people your facial expressions when chatting.

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