



Go The Distance

Acronyms

Acronyms can help you communicate more quickly and easily in online discussions. Here are some common acronyms you'll find in discussion forums (and their meanings).

AFAIK	– As far as I know
BBL	– Be back later
CU	– See you (goodbye)
DAE	– Did anyone else
IDK	– I don't know
IMO	– In my opinion
LOL	– Laugh out loud
NGL	– Not going to lie
OP	– Original poster (the person who wrote the post)
ROFL	– Rolling on the floor laughing (stronger than 'lol')
TBH	– To be honest
TL:DR	– Too long, didn't read (your post was too long!)
TTYL	– Talk to you later

Activity 1

Answer this question:












Is it more appropriate to use these acronyms a) when you communicate with your distance learning tutor or b) in discussions with other distance learners?

You can find the answer at the end of this document.

Emoji





🙄 🗑️ 📄 😊! If you're not sure what that means, you might need to do some social media studying! It's becoming more common to communicate using emoji – the little pictures you can find on your smartphones and social applications. These are very informal, so you probably wouldn't use them in messages to your distance learning tutors. Here's a quick guide to some of the most common emoji and what they can mean:

😊	smiling/happy face – you're feeling good
😞	sad face – something has upset you
😡	angry face – something has greatly upset you (use this one with caution!)
😷	face mask/sick face – you're not feeling well
😓	sweating/worried face – something is worrying you
😐	frowning face – you're not sure about something

	thumbs up – you agree
	thumbs down – you disagree
	laptop – use your computer
	file icon – a document on your computer
	open book – you need a book or you need to go to the library
	calendar – there's an important appointment or deadline coming up
	check mark – you've chosen this option
	cross – you have not chosen this option
	magnifying glass – search for something (on the internet)
	envelope – this usually means email or other correspondence
	paperclip – file attachment that comes with an email

Activity 2

Can you guess the meanings of these three messages? You can find the answers at the end of this document.

1. Can anyone  me the  for the project?
2. Sorry I didn't make the study group this week 😞 Can someone lend me their notes please?
3. 😊 Got an extra week to submit the essay – I'll be able to write it now  - anyone have any advice on  information?

Answers

Activity 1

You're more likely to use acronyms b) **in discussions with other distance learners** because they are quite an informal method of communication. But that doesn't mean you'll never use them in online communication with your tutors – some of them may use certain acronyms, especially AFAIK, IMO and OP.

Activity 2 (suggested answers)

1. Can anyone **send/email** me the **files/documents** for the project?
2. Sorry I didn't make the study group this week – **I wasn't well**. Can someone lend me their notes please?
3. **I'm happy**. Got an extra week to submit the essay – I'll be able to write it now **on my computer**. Anyone have any advice on **searching for** information?