February 2019

I "Unfriend U"

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Recommended Citation
Sanders, Brandy (2019) "I "Unfriend U"," SWOSU Sayre Student Anthology: Vol. 1 : No. 5 , Article 15.
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology/vol1/iss5/15

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Grammar Nazi: “Someone who believes it’s their duty to attempt to correct any grammar and/or spelling mistake they observe. This was the title given to me by my children and then later all my friends and family on Facebook. Is it wrong to want to see the correct spelling or usage of your and you’re, or there, their, and there? Or even the instead of th? Seriously, how much trouble is it to add one letter to a word? I feel that social media is to blame for people’s lack of interest to spell words correctly or even to care if they haven’t.

First, came the wonderful world of text messaging where, in all our hurried glory, there is no longer time to spell a word completely out and text-speak is an actual term. “OMG, I’m g2b L8 4 wrk g2g!” Let me help decipher that: “oh, my gosh, I’m going to be late for work, got to go!” Text messaging has made some people even lazier, at least in my experience. Being the “Grammar Nazi” that I am, I have a hard time texting in abbreviations. I will text my brother what some would consider a letter, and the reply I will get is, “k”, “K”? Seriously, I just took 5 minutes to text you a message and all I get in return is “k”? Talk about making my blood boil. Having teenagers I have also discovered that there is an abbreviation for just about any word or phrase that comes to mind. Teenagers no longer speak in complete thoughts and sentences face to face anymore. SMH!! (For those who are “text-speak” illiterate, that’s “shake my head”).

Then there is Twitter, where 140 characters will get you a “RT” if any of your millions of followers finds you interesting or humorous. And now we have Twitter-speak and hashtags (that’s an essay for another day). Twitter-speak is the same as text-speak only now the entire world can witness our cleverness to butcher every possible word in the English dictionary. You is u, and are is r, and know is no. Is it really necessary to abbreviate short words? I even found there are technical Twitter abbreviations and industry Twitter abbreviations. Thanks to socialmediatoday.com there is a Twitter dictionary. I am not kidding!

And last but not least, there is Facebook where posts are not limited to 140 characters and rants go on and on. My problem with this is, if I have to decipher every other word of someone’s status update, I’ve lost interest in anything that person had to say because I’m too busy deciding if your is you’re, or wood is would, and “unfriending” has crossed my mind several times between there and their. One of my friends constantly writes posts where almost every word is spelled out except for the, she spells it th. She throws in the occasional “LOL” and “IDK” but every time there’s a “th” I wonder, “Does she really not know there is an “e” on the end?” and my temptation to ask her without being perceived as mean is overshadowed by the text message reply that I just received from my brother. I can be mean to him, and he has to listen because I’m the oldest.