

WHO ARE YOU?

Answer the questions about yourself to find out which icon you are

WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN TICKETMASTER CRASHED?

- 1) Flew a plane to TicketMaster HQ
- 2) Simply asked a friend for a ticket
- 3) Laughed
- 4) Hacked into the website
- 5) When did Ticketmaster crash?

THOUGHTS ON BEREAL? (ARE YOU REAL?)

- 1) I have it but I normally post late
- 2) I'm ALWAYS real
- 3) It's really funny
- 4) I don't need BeReal to see what my friends are doing
- 5) I don't always buy into social media

DID YOU WATCH THE WORLD CUP?

- 1) Are you kidding? I've been waiting four years to watch it!
- 2) As long as my teachers didn't catch me watching in class.
- 3) I had to support my country! Go USA!
- 4) Yes, I watch everything, all the time
- 5) Is that a basketball game or something?

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE SUPER BOWL?

- 1) The game
- 2) Rihanna's halftime show, obviously!
- 3) The national anthem. The rest was funny though.
- 4) I only pay attention to the commercials
- 5) I was too busy watching the Puppy Bowl

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

- 1) Rizzard of Oz
- 2) Main character
- 3) LMAO
- 4) Bot
- 5) Alt

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY 1, YOU'RE GIVING:

Maverick from Top Gun: Maverick. You're always looking for fun and maybe someone to show off your outgoing personality to.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY 2... YOU'RE GIVING:

Beyoncé. You're a queen in your world, and when you put your mind to something, chances are, it's going to happen.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY 3... YOU'RE GIVING:

Vice President Kamala Harris. You find joy in everything, whether you're watching a football game or scrambling to find Taylor tickets.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY 4... YOU'RE GIVING:

M3GAN from "M3GAN." You're into the more technical aspect of your life and you pay close attention to detail.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY 5... YOU'RE GIVING:

Wednesday Addams from "Wednesday." You're not too focused on the hottest new trends.

have you HEARD?

After internet, social media bring words and phrases to mainstream and classrooms alike

By Sarina Zhao

Bussin. W Rizz. Main character energy. BFFR. Abbreviations, acronyms and other slang were integral to the vernacular of Gen Z and the early 2020s. Popularized verbally but also through the internet and social media trends, these phrases came up in everything from texts to daily conversations.

"I think that the words we come up with are just really funny to me and kind of cringey," ninth grader Zoe Alphonse said. "I usually use most of them as a joke. I think Gen Z is pretty creative, and we came up with a lot of interesting things."

Even teachers picked up on some phrases. Math teacher Joseph Scroll had a post-it with the word "slay" stuck to his cubicle in the math office.

"Ms. Burhani gave that to me," Mr. Scroll said. "I assume [slay] just means go do a great job... to kill it. These phrases will sometimes make themselves into the adult language, which always sounds ridiculous. It just sounds funny when someone who's 50 is saying something like that."

From time to time, Mr. Scroll heard a student say something he did not understand.

"I make fun of it in class sometimes just to be funny. Every generation has its own kind of dialect.

I've been here long enough that this is probably the second go around that I've had," Mr. Scroll said.

In the discourse about generational language, however, some people overlooked the roots of popular phrases and the cultures they were sometimes appropriated from.

"Slay," for instance, took its roots in Black, Latinx, queer ballroom culture. Many phrases from drag culture became mainstream from the popularity of shows like RuPaul's Drag Race. African American Vernacular English terms like "on fleek" were often misidentified as slang.

"I am not in any of the main subcultures or cultures where these words and slang come from," junior Alex Fogel said. "My friends and I are like 'slay' and 'yas.' I only say those things because people have made it clear that's OK to say. But otherwise, it's not my place to say."

For some, the correct usage of these phrases remains fuzzy.

"People need to be aware of where the words are coming from and the roots and what it means. As long as you're aware of what you're saying and what it means, then I think it's okay to use," Zoe said. "As long as it's not making groups and people feel uncomfortable."

"Soft launch is when, for example, you're in a relationship, and you post on social media a preview, like a TikTok of that person. That's a soft launch, because you basically said you guys are a thing."
—Isolde Wedemeyer (10)

soft/hard launch

"I think a soft launch is a very on-the-low, casual way of making an announcement. And a hard launch is a very out-there, bold statement. Very public. If nobody knew someone had a girlfriend, and then they posted a picture showing affection in public, that would be a hard launch."
—Shelby Hackett (10)

"W stands for win. Rizz, I've heard, is short for charisma. In a sentence, it would be, 'Brayden has w rizz.' I think it's a really nice term. I use it every day."
—Lisa Tao (10)

w rizz

"Even though it's technically to describe having a good relationship with someone, for me and my friends, we put the word into a bunch of already existing words. For instance we were working on our May Project presentation, and we were kind of just having fun with it. We kept on saying Rizzardocious. We're going to Arizona for our May Project so each time we wrote Arizona we wrote 'A-rizz-ona.'"
—Liam De Jong (12)

bussin

"Bussin is like 'really good.' It's not just good or great. It's excellent. Like, 'oh did you go to the cafeteria? The nachos are bussin today.' Usually I hear it talked about food."
—Xia Nesbitt (9)

The girls who get it, get it. The girls who don't, don't.

"Whenever I'm posting anything on social media, but I'm too lazy to click on my private story, I just put 'the girls who get it, get it. The girls who don't, don't.' I love it so much. It's so convenient. It's such an efficient way to say 'it's not your business.'"
—Jack Spiotto (9)

BFFR

"BFFR means 'be f—ing for real' and it's used in a joking way when someone says something that's clearly a lie and you're trying to call them out. I use it way too much in my life. One of my friends told me that they did really well on the math test and I said BFFR."
—Whit Waterstraat (9)

"Out of pocket is something that's really random and sort of targeted at someone. Maybe a little disrespectful. Something that really catches someone off guard. I usually use it when someone does something out of pocket; say they take your lunch money or they insult your face. I might say 'that was outta pocket, why'd you say that?'"
—George Stackert (10)

out of pocket

"Out of pocket is a term that essentially means out of the blue. Something that's just very random and abrupt. I think [current slang] is very entertaining. It's a little dumb, but it's a lot of fun."
—Lincoln Richardson (11)

"Karen is like an entitled woman who is like, 'may I speak to the manager?' She feels like she's entitled to something. As an insult on TikTok, people are like, 'you're such a Karen.' I think it's funny."
—Jessica Daugherty (12)

Karen

"When you say 'that's so sus,' someone's being sneaky. Someone's trying to hide something. It's a great word. I think it's a little overused now, so I don't use it."
—Maya Atassi (12)

sus

"I think the word sus is absolutely ridiculous. It was a thing at the beginning of the pandemic when everyone was obsessed with Among Us. And why is it still around? That's my question."
—Maggie Yagan (9)

"People think of Ohio as a weird state. They use Ohio as a meme. Like 'that's so Ohio, swag like Ohio.'"
—Hala Atassi (12)

Ohio

"When you catch someone doing something obviously strange or not under the social norm is when you say they were 'caught in 4k.' Typically they are unashamed of it. The term is used on Twitter. I feel like a lot of those terms are used very often on social media in those types of posts where it's normally reposted screenshots of things."
—Cameron Grant (11)

caught in 4k



THROUGH THE SCREEN Juniors Bella Waltzer and Yaseen Sufi look at their phones. "I think every once in a while there's a funny trend on TikTok and I'll send it to my friends," Bella said. "Sometimes we adopt the language used in it." Photo by Kaden Moubayed