A number of devices are used in txtspk:

1. Single letters are used to replace words, e.g. b for be, c for see, r for are, t for tea, u for you, and y for why. So see you becomes cu, cutie becomes qt, and your and you are become ur.

2. Numbers are used for individual words, e.g. 8 for ate, 4 for for, and 2 for to and too and for parts of words which sound like the number, e.g. gr8, str8, l8r, b4.

3. Contractions are used, e.g. by removing vowels and leaving a string of consonants which you can still easily recognise as the word. For example, sleep becomes slp, people becomes ppl, party becomes prty, and wicked becomes wkd.

4. Slang spellings or words are used instead of conventional spellings and words. So, night becomes nite, school becomes skool, sorry becomes soz, and love becomes luv.

5. Words are spelt as they are pronounced, e.g. wot for what, wiv for with, and NE1 for anyone.

6. Abbreviations, which often consist of the first letters of the words in a phrase are also used, thus DEGT means Don’t Even Go There and GGOH means Gotta Get Outta Here.

Some abbreviations are acronyms i.e. they form actual words, e.g. KIT meaning Keep In Touch. Abbreviations have been coined for widely used words and phrases. Thus thanks is thx and please is plz, and between you and me is btw (from BeTWeen you and me).

How good are you at decoding text speak?

1. r u gng 2 t pty 2nite

2. du wnt a lft plz txt me ev

3. txtspk xplnd

Answers: TXTSPK 1
**I say, I say, I say**

Q. What did Old Mother Hubbard say when she saw that the cupboard was bare?

A. O I C U R M T

(Oh, I see you are empty.)

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**Cu I8r Scal8r**

Can you translate this poem into standard English?

- cu I8r scal8r ....................................................................
- ina blnk fize drnk ..........................................................
- cu I8r lev8r ....................................................................
- ina our coleflwr ..............................................................
- cu I8r rde8r ......................................................................
- inamin rlng pn ................................................................
- cu I8r opr8r....................................................................... 
- gtr crnt bun....................................................................

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**Did you know?**

Symbols used to express feelings in text messages such as :-)) are called emoticons.

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**Answers: Cu I8r Scal8r**

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