

GSM Today

FREE GSM E-books

www.gsmtoday.jump.to

~~~~~ <> ~~~~~  
**The Beginning of WI-SMS-DOM Part 1**

By Sagai John Adam

~~~~~ <> ~~~~~  
The fear of airtime tariff is the beginning of wisdom...

That "wisdom" is being manifested in the growing popularity of Short Message Service (SMS) among GSM subscribers in the land.

I have just spent my first month in the exciting world of strictly-SMS-only lifestyle. That means NO voice calls whatsoever.

With the SMS lifestyle, you really begin to fill "fulfilled".

1. It is cheaper: A N1,500 card will give you 100 messages at N15 per message. (If you are not satisfied with that, then you may have a bigger problem).
2. You cut out all the small talk about the weather and get straight to the point.
3. You can cram in enough words in the 160 letters you are allowed.
4. Even if you turn off your phone, it is kept in the SMSC (the Short message Service Centre) for you for some time.

There are also web sites on the Internet that allow you to send text messages to mobile phones. This is an area I have been researching for some time and I hope to do a piece on the best sites later. If you can't wait, you can try searching the Internet using the keywords: "send SMS to mobile phones". You can also visit these web sites:

<http://www.Whisper2u.com>
<http://www.text-sms.com>
<http://www.smswhiz.com>
<http://www.simply-promote.com>
<http://www.freedity.com>

If you are still making calls and grumbling, it is time to change strategies. You can get your message across using SMS. As long as tariffs remain high, sending text messages will continue to be very popular. It is truly the beginning of wisdom for most GSM Subscribers.

~~~~~ <> ~~~~~

## The Beginning of WI-SMS-DOM Part 2

By Sagai John Adam

~~~~~ <> ~~~~~

The fear of airtime tariff is the beginning of wisdom...

Last week, we started a series on the growing popularity of the Short Message Service or SMS that allows text messages to be sent from GSM phones.

If you missed that, read issue #7 in the archives:

<http://www.freelists.org/archives/gsmtoday/03-2002/fullthread2.html>

This week, we will look at SMS shortcuts and abbreviations, which help you, reduce the number of words you must type to communicate.

Remember that SMS only allows 160 characters per message and so these shortcuts help you say much in the little space available. For example,
 Instead of typing "Before" you can type "B4."
 Instead of typing "ARE YOU OK" you can type "RU OK"
 With these SMS Abbreviations, you can communicate faster and easier.

These Abbreviations are the Standard forms of SMS communication all over the world. When you know how to use them, you will be able to send SMS messages to people and most especially, understand the messages you will receive.

Some phones have a special feature called "Predictive Text" that displays which word you intend to type and so help you type your messages faster.

Here is a list of SMS shortcuts.

| Phrase/Word
----- | SMS Shortcut
----- |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| All The Best | ATB |
| Anything | R |
| Are You Coming | RU CMNG |
| Are You OK? | RU OK |
| Be | B |
| Before | B4 |
| Call Me | CMi |
| Emergency - Call Me | 911 |
| Excellent | XLNT |
| For Your Information | FYI |
| Free To Talk | F2T |
| Good Luck | GUDLUK |
| Great | GR8 |
| Waiting | w8N |
| Shopping | shopN |
| Wearing a walkman | [: -) |
| Nothing | nufN |

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Doing | doN |
| Please | PLZ |
| Please Call Me | PCME |
| Regards | RGDS |
| See | C |
| See You | CU |
| Speak | SPK |
| Thanks | THX |
| Today | 2DAY |
| Tomorrow | 2MORO |
| Wait | W8 |
| Wait For Me | W84M |
| What | WOT |
| Where are you? | WRU |
| Your | YR |

More of these shortcut are available on the internet. Search for "SMS abbreviations" and see what happens. One of the best I have seen is at <http://www.smsportal.com/smsdictionary.asp>

We will see how to construct fairly simple messages with these shortcuts next week.

~~~~~ <> ~~~~~  
**The Beginning of WI-SMS-DOM Part 3**

By Sagai John Adam  
~~~~~ <> ~~~~~

The fear of airtime tariff is the beginning of wisdom...

Last week, we continued a series on the growing popularity of the Short Message Service or SMS that allows text messages to be sent from GSM phones.

If you missed that, read issue #8 in the archives:

<http://www.freelists.org/archives/gsmtoday/03-2002/fullthread3.html>

This week, we will use the SMS shortcuts and abbreviations to send sample messages. These shortcuts help you reduce the number of words you must type to communicate. Here is Sample message 1.

Suppose you want to send this message:

WHAT'S UP? I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL DAY. SAM WANTS TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TRY AND SEE HIM BEFORE YOU SLEEP TONIGHT. I WILL MAKE SURE HE BRINGS THE BOOK TO YOUR HOUSE. SEE YOU THEN. ADAM

Remember that in the SMS, you can send only 160 characters, including the spaces between the words. The total words used are 201, so you may have to send 2 messages. That means you will spend N30 since MTN and Econet Wireless charge N15 per message.

Here is a version using SMS shortcuts:

WOTZ UP? I HAV BEEN LOOKN 4 U ALL DAY. SAM WANTS 2CU ASAP. TRY N C HIM B4 U SLEEP 2NITE. I WILL MAKE SURE HE BRNGS D BOOK TO UR HOUSE. CYA. ADAM

This takes only 144 characters and is still understandable. Only one message is sent for N15.

As a general rule, shorten every thing. If you can do without a letter, skip it.

For example, "HAV", "BRNG", "U" and "4".

You can skip whole words too if necessary. Even if your message sounds like a Telegraph, don't worry.

All "ing" suffixes can be replaced with "N". So DRINKING, DRIVING AND DYING becomes DRINKN, DRIVN N DYN

Here is Sample message 2.

The long form of the message is:

HONEY, WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME AFTER WORK? I WILL BE GOING TO THE MARKET AFTER I CLOSE FROM WORK. DINNER WILL BE A LITTLE LATE TODAY O! DON'T FORGET TO BRANCH TO THE VIDEO CLUB AND GET US SOME FILMS. BYE. EVE.

Total words: 210

Total cost: N30 since you must send two messages.

Using SMS abbreviations, we can shorten it to:

HONEY, WEN RU CMNG HOME? I WIL B GOIN 2 D MRKT AFTA I CLOSE
FRM WRK. DINNER WIL B L8 2DAY O! DON'T 4GET 2 BRNCH 2 D VDO
CLUB N GET US SOME FILMS. LUVYA. EVE.

Total words: 157

Total cost: N15

Writing good SMS messages comes through practice. Spend some time and you will soon be comfortable with these shortcuts.

Here are a few other tips:

1. Always end your messages with your name or a short form of your name. Don't assume that everyone will know your phone number. The only exception is when decide to reply a message immediately after receiving it.
2. Say all you want to say. Short messages of only one sentence are a waste of money. Squeeze in as much as your 160-word limit can handle.
3. Delete junk messages as soon as you get them.

Until the airtime charges become reasonable, SMS will continue to be the people's choice. It is the closest thing to the "El-dorado" the GSM networks promised us. SMS helps you to finally communicate without having a heart attack.

+---

Sagai John Adam is the Editor of GSM Today Ezine, which is Nigeria's FIRST Ezine dedicated to helping people "recover their GSM investments". To SUBSCRIBE send <mailto:gsmtoday-request@freelists.org> and put "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the Subject line of the email.