

# Why autocorrect, why?

The proverb goes that you cannot take back the words you have spoken, but that needs to be updated to include texts and emails as well. That cold chill of horror as you see the last line of your well versed email to your boss being sent as "I am not unsured of hearing from you"- no frantic scuffle of pressing the 'Undo' arrow can take this back!

Sitting on your PC or your laptop, you are blessed with the omnipresent red line under every wrong word. The biggest mistake that you can make and overlook is to type, for example, 'Froget' or 'Evniormnet,' and still be understood. But the touch screen and manoeuvring the on-screen keyboard on your phone is a different game altogether! Something as simple as writing "Hi, how are you?" can become anything from "Hiii, hw r youe/!" to "What is the purpose of being?" And here we were, thinking that our phones are 'smart'.

Spellings and grammar rules that have been drummed into your system, dissolve at the face of a screen and a keyboard made for infant-like hands. And if you want to fly without autocorrect, make sure the receiver has pain relieving medication at hand! Forget formatting and other gimmicks that many seem to have a nearly magical capability with, some of us struggle just to type our names right. You can be sure that you shut off word suggestions and spell check and the whole works, but you can still be faced with regular lexicographic accidents of various sizes. So go easy on the poor soul who sent you a text message that reads "it happeneded lounng times ago," at least it's readable!

By Iris Farina  
Photo: Collected

# A tech crash course for the mums

*Dear mothers of teenage girls and boys,*  
Are you sick and tired of getting eye rolls when you ask your kids to "update the internet on my phone?" How many times was it that your Instagram post needed a filter like your teenager, and you had to pester them to apply it for you? Are you constantly bombarding your children to plug in your set-top box to the TV so that you can catch the latest blockbuster that hasn't arrived in town yet?

If you have done at least one of these activities, then dear mummy, it's time to ease up on the beauty salons, midday TV soaps, and your window shopping, to start using and knowing your gadgets right.

## GOOGLE KNOWS MOST

A mother's first friend in the uncharted sea of all things should be the Google search engine. Insert your daily tech worries, and this wizard, in most cases, will help you navigate many troubled waters. From simple problems like adjusting brightness on your phone, to detailed step-by-step on how to update your son's gaming

getting bite sized info for these small things. Chances are your tech-infused children have little or no idea on these terms, even if they pretend they do!

As far as reading goes, never attempt to do anything without reading the full instruction, or till you reach the end of the page.

Must have

## MOM APPS

(for the tech savvy mom)

I got you pregnant!!

Wait what?!

I MEANT PRESENTS 🎁

## GET TO KNOW YOUR DEVICE(S) AND APPS

First things first, there is a ton of difference between using your email or social networking on a PC/ laptop and using it on your

phone/tablet. Manoeuvring among the various gadgets and systems is cumbersome, but in the long run, this will help you to get through most predicaments like rotating your profile photo or forwarding a document you got via email to a different messaging system. Start from learning basic on/off and restart operations, and work your way up to target some easy maintenance tasks like using an anti-virus programme.

## MEME BASED

### INTELLIGENCE IS REAL

You have heard of this seemingly harmless word, and have probably listed it as another one of those new-fangled words that you do not need to pay attention to. But what you are missing out on is a considerable wealth of fun, and often striking satirical chunks of up-to-date information, all presented in a manner

that hardly seems serious. Besides your favourite cooking and beauty pages, do subscribe to a few Meme pages as well, both local and international. It takes a bit of time to get used to it, and some of the things will irk you, but the best part is none of these last longer than three days!

## YOUTUBE TO THE RESCUE

If you are a visual learner, there is no greater blessing for you than YouTube. From Juliennig potatoes with your everyday knife, to over the top decorating hacks, you have it all literally at your fingertips. This is also the place where you can 'catch up' with everything that's interesting to your teenage children. From music, movies, comic books to games, YouTube not only does your homework, but your thesis, as well as predictions for what's next. Look out for channels that deliver good valid info with a bite of sarcasm. The trick however still lies in delivering your new-found know-how on the 'cool' things without sounding like a parrot.

## GETTING HELP THE RIGHT WAY

Instead of the typical "fix this" command disguised as a request, go for a different route. Your phone isn't the same as it was after an update? – ask what you can do to get it like before. If you take time to observe, you will see that your child (and tech experts alike) also gets lost amidst the screen swiping, and depends on his/her quick reading ability to make up for the few missed steps. What annoys them is when you can't repeat the same steps, even though they showed it you for at least four to five times. To cover this, a good step is to make your young helper tell you what to do, instead of handing them the gadget directly. This works as a reminder to your kids that they are not as 'tech-smart' as they seem. Remember, your children actually like helping

you out, they just won't admit it, but they genuinely do.

As a last word of much needed encouragement, don't ever buckle down from learning and getting to know about tech stuff. If you potty trained your children without a manual, then you can surely teach yourself on how to update your phone. Never be afraid to turn your tablet or laptop off

then on again! And DON'T EVER underestimate your intuition of

checking if the device is actually connected to a power outlet before calling backup for heavy-duty troubleshooting.

Good luck and may the Gods of Tech watch over you!

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