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The Way I Text Is Deeply Uncool, But I Don't Care

I know all about emojis and voice memos, so why do my friends say I write like a Boomer?

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AS A WOMAN rounding the bend to 50, I am well aware there are technological trends that I don't understand and likely never will.

As the robots are coming for us all anyway, I am usually not too bothered by it. But I was recently informed that the way I text makes me look...old.

The way I *text*? What was *old* about my texting? My phone uses a regular font and does not bear letters the size of baby carrots. I also feel I have a decent grasp of emojis and understand that if a work colleague suggests meeting for dinner, I should not respond with an eggplant, no matter how much I'm craving baba ganoush. What on earth was I getting wrong?

Was it the length? A friend did once remark that even when I'm sending the simplest of messages, I tend to overwrite, like I'm sending some quill and ink update from the war front. "I feel like I need to cue up fiddle music and zoom in Ken Burns-style just asking you for a dentist rec," he said.

He suggested I try sending voice memos instead. Apparently that's what all the kids do now. I nodded, while quietly thinking he may as well tell me to press my thoughts onto a vinyl record and drop it through his mail slot.

I concede my texts can run long, but that's mainly because I write in full, complete sentences and avoid acronyms—largely because I can never quite remember what they are. (I regularly have to Google SMH and then, once reminded, SMH.)

Is the problem my GIF delivery incompetence? In this, I do indeed aspire to do better. When a friend wrote recently that she was having a hard day, I somehow failed to properly respond with an animated GIF of the Golden Girls hugging each other and sent instead a frozen still of a frowning Bea Arthur.

But doesn't everyone screw up GIFs from time to time? No, it had to be something else, some small but telling detail that made my messages look like they'd been pecked out by Bea Arthur herself.

"You need to stop with the punctuation Boomer," my friend wrote.

Boomer! My parents are boomers! What was she talking about? And where was her comma before "boomer?" !

Doesn't everyone use punctuation in texts?

I quickly scanned my messages and discovered that no, they don't. It seemed I was the only

clueless, 200-year-old "let me tell you about my voyage on the Titanic" granny who found it necessary to add a semicolon.

"Do you use punctuation in texts?" I asked my husband.

He shrugged with the aloof cool of James Dean flicking a cigarette into the gutter. (Actually, with that reference, maybe I *am* a boomer?)

