

Top 10 online phrases popular with Netizens

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The top 10 online phrases for 2021 have been announced by China's language resources monitoring and research center.

The annual release offers insight into societal changes during the year.

As the phrases are mostly used by youngsters, they also reflect their attitude toward topical events.

The buzzwords come from a wide range of fields, including historical scenes, national policies, film and television dramas, and online slang.

A swathe of popular Internet users donated their brainwaves which refreshed the culture and indicated the state of China's Internet in 2021.

For example, "YYDS," literally meaning "eternal God," is an acronym of a four-word pinyin term "Yong Yuan De Shen" and an expression which does not belong to any kind of language.

Originating from the eSports community, it used to be a niche phrase but it now can be found on almost all online platforms and has entered mainstream media.

Ge Shuang, 28, often uses "YYDS" in her daily life.

"A recent occasion happened when I was watching a variety show about doctors," she told Shanghai Daily. "A scene that moved me involved a PowerPoint made by a female doctor, Liu Chang, that showed the analysis and treatment of a rare disease."

Rare diseases are those that affect a small percentage of the population. They often result in serious health conditions and may require lifelong treatment. "Even

for these small groups of people, the Chinese doctors never give up treating them," said Ge.

The drugs used to treat such rare diseases used to cost 40,000 yuan (US\$6,284) to 50,000 yuan per bottle, a price that could be reduced to 20,000 to 30,000 yuan with commercial insurance. But it's still a huge burden on a family.

"Thankfully, our country has included some costly drugs in the medical insurance cover. And that touches me. I feel that the country is always ensuring the rights of health and life for its people and have to say 'China YYDS!'"

Another term, "Po Fang," meaning breaking down defenses, is also originally from gaming. Gamers use it when they are attacked and their defenses have been broken.

Now it has become a catch phrase that young people use to express the sentiment that something has "touched" them and made them feel overwhelmed. Similar phrase "Po Fang Le" ("le" indicates the completion of an action) has been selected as online video platform Bilibili's 2021 Bullet Comment of the Year.

It can be applied to different circumstances, such as the late agronomist Yuan Longping's dream about a successful large-scale cultivation of a hybrid rice, Chinese athletes winning gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics and a first-day-at-work doctor spending six hours kneeling on the ground to treat victims of the Henan flooding.

It can also be used when a person suffering from overwork exhaustion receives a parents' warm greeting.

But unlike the classics, the Internet language can die rapidly. People remember poems of the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907), but maybe they can't remember the online phrases of five years ago.

It is still meaningful, however, to record online phrases because they reflect people's stories and emotions at different moments. Sometimes different people can have different views of one phrase.

Ye Xin, 30, who has been a Netizen for 14 years and a gamer for 22 years, told Shanghai Daily that among 10 phrases, the one he uses most frequently is "Tang Ping," or lying flat. It refers to a person who surrenders under increased pressure and gives up fighting.

"As a post-1990 single 'corporate slave,' I face the deadlines set by my boss at work



The Chinese delegation to the Tokyo Olympic Games was praised to be "YYDS."

YYDS, the pinyin abbreviation of Chinese "永远滴神"

YYDS originated from eSports player Shiny Ruo when he shouted out "Uzi, 永远滴神!" to his idol Uzi, a retired Legend of League player.

The expression, literally meaning "forever the God," illustrates one's feeling when they find something or someone godlike, awesome, and exceptional. The equivalent in the English-speaking context is GOAT, the abbreviation of "the greatest of all time."

Not harmful, but utterly embarrassing

伤害性不高,侮辱性极强

A phrase used by Netizens to tease something that was utterly embarrassing although not substantially harmful.



My understanding of this term (lying flat) ... Instead, it indicates that one can adjust him or herself, set a goal and save energy for it, so that he or she can start a new journey.

Ye Xin, 30

and being urged by my parents to get married in life. So every day, I give myself a short period of time to 'lie flat,' keep away from work and 'empty myself,' he said.

"With the time spent 'lying flat,' I can adjust myself to the best condition and make a plan for the next day," Ye said.

"So my understanding of this term is that it doesn't mean one avoids or gives up the current situation in his or her life. Instead, it indicates that one can adjust him or herself, set a goal and save energy for it, so that he or she can start a new journey."