

## Definition Essay

Did you ever want to express your opinion when being completely excited but you did not know how to convey this absolute excitement? Almost every person was in such situation when he or she wanted to say “extremely,” but found this word inappropriate. Moreover, the word “very” became too common and boring, and it cannot reveal the exact meaning of every emotion now. Many young people use shortened forms of long words or try to invent some new notions. One of such words is the word “totes.” It first appeared in the USA in 2006 in *Twitter.com*. It is an adverb, shortened from the word “totally.” Today, the word is mostly used by the youth as an intensifier. When modifying an adjective, it means “very, extremely,” and when modifying a verb, it denotes “definitely, absolutely”. Although the word “totes” was not in use by previous generation, it is popular among contemporary adolescents. The word may seem useless and unnecessary; however, it makes the language brighter and more emotional, which is illustrated in the following essay.

The word “totes” is commonly used in social networking websites. Today, most of young people and adults communicate with each other via message system. Thus, shortened forms of words are widely used. Therefore, the first reason why the word “totes” has appeared is time saving and convenience. For example, it was first mentioned in the following sentence, “Totes nervous about going on the news on Monday”. It intensifies the adjective “nervous” and adds some freshness to its meaning. A person who types this word saves place and time since the word is shorter than “totally.” When an individual wants to emphasize his/her emotions or show that he or she is completely frustrated or exhausted, the word “totes” will be appropriate. For instance, “I am totes tired to do my homework!” It is obvious that the word is used by a teenager. Besides, according to the *Urban Dictionary*, “the word is commonly used by teenage girls” who

pronounce it around 190 times a day. It may be explained by the fact that the girls are too emotional and inclined to exaggerate everything. Therefore, they use all possible shortenings and colloquialisms to express as many ideas as possible. Thus, the word “totes” helps young girls to reveal their overwhelming feelings and save time for saying long phrases and combinations.

The second reason this word appeared is fashion and desire to stand out against a background of other people. It is known that every specific group of people, either the students or workers of a particular sphere, has their peculiar vocabulary. Sometimes, teenagers want to look cool and grown-up; therefore, they communicate with each other, using some new notions and substituting common words with newly found ones. As a result, such words become popular and spread among other people. The word “totes” is less than ten years old but it is commonly used by many teenagers since it perfectly substitutes such adverbs as “totally,” “completely,” “entirely,” “fully,” “extremely,” and many others. For instance, instead of saying “I totally need to go to this shop because I extremely need to buy this dress,” a girl might say, “I totes need to go to this shop because I totes need to buy this dress.” As a result, she saves two-three seconds and does not need to decide what kind of word to choose because it is easier to say the same word with different sub-meanings. Thus, the adolescents do not want to look old-fashioned and speak as older adults do; that is why they resort to strong measures and alter ancient words. Consequently, they look “totes cool” for their friends.

Interestingly, the word “totes” can substitute an adverb “yes.” The *Oxford English Dictionary Online* provides the following example: “‘See you there in twenty?’ ‘Totes!’ Nate said, and I hear one of his low, slow laughs on the other end”. The speaker intensifies his answer and adds some irony in order to puzzle or confuse his interlocutor. Thus, he makes his answer emotional and meaningful. On the contrary, when saying “yes,” the answer would seem too

simple and chilly, which is not always pleasant for the interlocutor. Thus, the word “totes” is a perfect intensifier, which can embellish and exaggerate the meaning of the statement.

Finally, every day people interact and intercommunicate, looking for easier and faster ways of sharing information with friends and relatives. The modern world of the Internet and social networking websites, as well as textual messages, requires the users to send to the recipient as many details of the news as possible, typing floor amount of words. The word “totes” has many sub-meanings and can replace several adverbs, which emphasize the qualities and affirm the actions.

In conclusion, the word “totes” is an important constituent of everyday speech of every young person today. Older people may consider this word unnecessary since it is a shortened form of the adverb “totally,” which belongs to a literary style. Thus, there is no need to substitute a literary-right adverb with a slang word. However, the contemporary teenagers will not agree since they like to use short and uncommon words to emphasize their peculiarities. Besides, the word “totes” is mostly used by teenage girls who reveal their emotions with its help. This word means “definitely,” “extremely,” “totally,” “absolutely,” and even “yes.” It became popular among the youth, and it is hardly possible to delete this word from their vocabulary since it is now the part of life of modern boys and girls.