

Generational Heat Treatment

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If you're a parent with kids at home you've likely suffered through a 20-minute conversation of unusual phrases and off-beat acronyms that sound like an alien dialect. If you have three or more kids talking in the back seat of your car you may wonder—as I often do—can I hire a translator or AI Assistant to figure out exactly what these weirdos are talking about?

Of course, these kids talk and text so fast because they've all grown up with everything they need in front of their curious faces. They live and breathe information. They Tik. They Tok. They shorten every word in the English dictionary.

We're knee deep in the Electronic Age where complex digital systems, microprocessors and artificial intelligence have replaced the gears, slide rules and printing presses of the Mechanical Age. Kids are building their own language to accommodate these wholesale changes.

Objectively, the shop floor might sound very different in 15 years. Will the future robotic workforce understand what their human counterparts are saying? Strictly for research purposes, we fed some common heat-treating facts (our issue focus) into an unofficial Gen-Z/Gen Alpha translator. I must admit the results were extremely fascinating:

Our custom heat-treating services include stress-relieving, induction hardening, through-hardening and a complete metallurgy laboratory for your heat treatment needs.

"We do, like, custom heat treating for real. Got stress? We'll relieve it. Need induction or through hardening, we can do this. Plus, a whole lab for, like, metal stuff. Need all that heat treatment? Say less."

The gears underwent quenching to enhance their hardness and durability, ensuring they could withstand heavy operating loads.

"We quenched those gears to make 'em extra tough and durable, so they can handle, like, a TON of stress. No more stress. Finished."

Vacuum carburizing offers many advantages in comparison with traditional atmosphere carburizing.

"VC? Yeah, we can VC. Period. It's way better than that old-school atmosphere carburizing. Our VC is valid. Bet."

Can you recommend a heat treat process for a gear that spends its whole life oscillating back and forth and causing a large amount of shock?

"What's the best heat treat for a gear that's, like, constantly vibing back and forth and taking major L's from all the shock?"

Is it better to find a reliable heat treat partner at a trade show or by going online and conducting major research?

"Should I find a solid heat treat wizard at a trade show or by deep diving online? Like, is it giving trade show or is it giving Google?"

I am extremely worried about the state of manufacturing and engineering conversations based on what I'm hearing

from children today. Is there any hope for humanity?

"I'm low-key stressing about the manufacturing and engineering convos I'm hearing from kids. Big yikes. Is there even hope for us? OMG, I'm crashing out about the future of making stuff. We're doomed. Major anxiety. Future bleak. I'm shook. NGL. Need snacks."

While the translator is just poking fun at our current text-heavy universe, truth is, the Baby Boomers, Gen-Xers and Millennials had their own equally ridiculous words and phrases growing up. The real enemy was always the parents, unable to stay in the conversation and not cool enough to hang longer than six, seven minutes, tops.



"I have no idea what he said ... but he's so darned cute."

