Polite commenting
& rules of behaviour

A definition

Whether online or in real life, there are rules one needs to follow in order to conduct discussions, conversations, debates and interactions properly.

Why is this important?

Following such rules can prevent adverse consequences and protect users from social backlash, cyberbullying, unethical communication, unsafe conduct, sharing of confidential data and cyber-security issues for individuals, communities and organisations.

Tips and tricks

→ Read and respect the terms and conditions of the platform you are using.

→ Remain respectful, factual and ethical. Avoid combative behaviour and hate speech.

→ Think of the consequences of your posts, words and behaviours on yourself and others. Remember that out of context or out of your close friend group, what you may have meant as a harmless joke might be perceived as derogatory or offensive to others.

Useful resources and tools

⬐ Elliott on The Commenting Club, "How to be polite to make a social difference with your comments", explains how to behave online to have a positive impact and also wrote another article about "How to be tactful to avoid conflict in commenting"

⬐ Alison Grace Johansen on Norton Life Lock, "10 netiquette rules to maintain a good online reputation", helps you keep a proper and professional reputation on the internet.

⬐ Ashley Brooks on Rasmussen University, "10 Netiquette Guidelines Online Students Need to Know", lists advice for students' behaviour, especially during online classes.

⬐ Elizabeth Hartney on Very Well Mind, "10 Basic Netiquette Rules", provides advice to avoid damaging online and offline relationships.

Goldberg on Touro College, "15 Rules of Netiquette for Online Discussion Boards [INFOGRAPHIC]", shows a dynamic infographic of rules to facilitate online discussions.

Kaspersky (awarded cybersecurity company), "What is Netiquette? 20 rules: Internet Etiquette Rules", lists 20 recommendations for conduct on the internet.