

# Instant Message Etiquette

## I. General Rules

1. Never give anyone's screenname to others without that person's consent.

## II. After Signing On

1. Immediately after someone signs on, wait a few minutes before sending them an instant message. Give them time to unwind a little without being bombarded with instant message windows.
2. No short useless conversations. The point of being online is to talk to people. (If you have dialup and need to do other things and can't talk, put an away message on) People that say "hey" or "hi" and nothing else after that (then get pissed at you and expect you to talk) are very annoying and waste an IM box on your screen.
3. Similar to number 2, let conversations be interactive. It is very annoying when one person is doing all the talking and the other person says cool, yeah, ok, etc.

## III. Away Messages

1. Do not randomly put an away message on without notifying people that you will be back later.
2. If someone's away message is on, do not instant message them 20 times. (Marc)

## IV. Signing Off

1. Do not randomly sign off without notifying the people you're talking to.

There are two exceptions to this rule

- a) You get in trouble by a parent or guardian and must sign off immediately to avoid further punishment.
- b) Applies to those who have a dialup modem. Getting disconnected randomly or getting disconnected because the phone rings is perfectly acceptable.
- c) Please let all people know why you randomly signed off, so you will be forgiven.