Netiquette: Good Manners Online

We all spend a lot of time online, mostly to chat and connect with people. The easiest way to do this is through social media platforms like Instagram or TikTok. However, online spaces require good behavior, just like real life. We call this good behavior Netiquette, a combination of "Internet" and "etiquette." Learning Netiquette is crucial for a safe and pleasant online life.

Rule 1: Think Before You Act. Before you post a picture, a story, or a simple comment, stop and think. Is this message helpful or kind? Remember, writing in ALL CAPS is considered rude and can make people feel like you are shouting at them. Always use polite language.

Rule 2: Respect Boundaries. A key rule is respecting other people's privacy. This means you must never share another person's personal details, photos, or private messages without their clear permission. You wouldn't like it if someone shared your private information! Checking your privacy settings on your profile is always a good idea.

Rule 3: Manage Your Image. Your profile is often the first thing people see. Make sure it represents you well. Also, be aware of your digital footprint. This is the trail of data and information you leave behind every time you post or like something. This footprint stays online forever, so always post things you won't regret later.

Rule 4: Choose the Right Tool. Sometimes, texting is too slow or too difficult for complex topics. For serious discussions or when you need quick answers, starting a video call can be much more effective and personal than trying to explain everything in a long message.

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Match the word (1-10) with its correct definition (A-J).

Word	Definition
1. social media	A. To put a message, photo, or video online.
2. profile	B. To talk to someone quickly using typed messages.
3. post	C. Websites or apps like Instagram, TikTok, or Facebook.
4. chat	D. Information about yourself on a website.
5. privacy	E. Keeping your personal information secret from other users.
6. comment	F. A conversation with sound and pictures over the Internet.
7. share	G. Rules for good manners when communicating online.
8. video call	H. The history of all your online activities and data.
9. digital footprint	I. To let other people see your files or information.
10. Netiquette	J. A short message that expresses an opinion or reaction to post

Decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F) according to the text.

1. Writing messages in ALL CAPS is considered good online manners. (T/F)
2. Your digital footprint means only the messages you post today. (T/F)
3. It is okay to share someone's personal photo if you like it very much. (T/F)
4. A video call is sometimes a better idea for serious conversations than writing a message. (T/F)
5. Your profile is important because it shows who you are online. (T/F)
6. Netiquette is a word that combines 'Internet' and 'etiquette'. (T/F)
7. It doesn't matter if you are rude online with strangers; they don't know you anyway. (T/F)
8. Your digital footprint is the path you leave when you visit new websites. (T/F)
9. It is rude if people think you are shouting in an online message. (T/F)
10. You always need permission to share someone else's personal details. (T/F)

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