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| Netiquette |
| *What does the word “etiquette” mean, you ask?* Well, it is a French word that refers to a set of rules either dictated by authority or by what has been deemed culturally acceptable to function in social or professional life. Netiquette is a combination of the words: network and etiquette. It is defined in the dictionary as the informal code of behavior on the Internet. In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.  *Why do we want standards or rules for how we communicate digitally?* We want standards because, like in school, everybody needs to act appropriately and realize that there are consequences for refusing to do so. It also helps us to understand the boundaries of what is acceptable behavior.  As a student of World Languages, you already know that to communicate in another language than your own, you need to learn more than the vocabulary and/or the grammar. You also need to learn the culture so you don’t commit social blunders. Well, cyberspace also has its own culture. Nobody really wants to offend someone or to be offended because they misunderstand how to act in a given situation. It is the same online. You should always remember that you are interacting with real people not just avatars like in video games. You should give them the same attention and respect that you would give them in real life. The tricky part is that online you need to be more careful because you cannot immediately see the damage you are causing by careless words.  This document will help you reduce misunderstanding by explaining what proper behavior is like in cyberspace, and thus reducing the chances that you will make someone mad without meaning to do so. The list of rules below will help you remember what is acceptable; therefore, it would be a good idea to post them next to your computer so you can easily refer to them when you are communicating with people online. |