

Tips N' Techniques

Smileys

Part of the nature of a good one-on-one conversation is the use of visual cues. How important are facial expressions and body gestures to a conversation? A simple eye movement can mean the difference between yes and YES. What about auditory cues? The results is the same as with visual cues. One way to indicate emotion is to add <g> for 'Grin', or <bg> for 'Big Grin'. A more complex way to indicate emotions are the smileys or emoticons. They are simple strings of characters that are interspersed in the e-mail text to convey the writer's emotions (cues). The most common example is :-). Turn your head to the left and you should see a happy face (the colon is the eyes, the dash is the nose and the parentheses is the mouth). Here are some more examples.

:-)	smiley face (humour)
:-))	laugh
(-:	left handed smiley
;-)	wink (light sarcasm)
:-	indifference
:->	devilish grin (heavy sarcasm)
8-)	big-eyed smiley
:-D	shock or surprise
:-/	perplexed
:-(sad
:-C	real unhappy
:-P	wry smile
;-}	leer
;-(;-*	crying kiss
:-X	big wet kiss
:-e	disappointment
:-@	scream
:-O	yell
:-&	Tongue tied
:-{	wears lipstick
O:-)	Angel smiley
:-Q	Smoking smiley
:-[Vampire smiley

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