How to Chat

Second Life is a platform for learning, meeting, educating and engaging with other residents. One of the easiest ways to communicate with one another is by using text chat.

To use the Local Chat, make sure the Local Chat bar is visible at the bottom of your Viewer.

You can press “Enter” on your keyboard. Or click the “chat” icon on the bottom left part of the screen.

Click in the white text bar and start typing.
Anything that you type will be visible to all avatars within 20 meters.

You must be standing near the person (within a 20 meter radius) with whom you want to chat. If you are too far from one another the text will not be visible in the Viewer.

The text will appear in the lower left corner of your screen.
If you want to have a private chat conversation so that no one other than the intended recipient can see the chat messages, you will need to use the Instant Message or IM Chat. To do this, click on the “Communicate” button in the lower left of your Viewer.

This will open the Communicate window. Make sure the Contacts tab is selected in the bottom.

Select the Friends tab in the top of the window.
Click on your friend’s name to highlight their name.

Click the “IM/Call” button in the right side of the window.

This will open the IM Chat window.

Click into the white text bar at the bottom of the window.
Anything you type into the text bar will only be visible to the person with whom you are chatting. This type of chatting can occur within the same sim or across the entire grid that makes up Second Life. You do not need to be standing within 20 meters of one another. This is also useful for finding friends who may be in different sims.

The text message will appear in the lower left corner of your Viewer and will be preceded by the letters “IM” and the chatter’s SL name. If you see an IM message appear in your viewer you will need to open your Communicate window to return the chat.

To end the chat session, click on the orange “X” in the chat window of the conversion. This is the lower of the two orange “x”s that you will see.
You can also start a group chat in which only members of a group are able to see the chat messages. This is useful for collaboration sessions. Click on the Contacts tab at the bottom of the window.

Click on the Groups tab at the top.

Select the group with whom you want to chat by clicking the group name. (You do not start in Second Life in groups. You can join groups and create groups. Your groups may vary from the ones seen here)
Click on the “IM/Call” button in the left of the window.

Click in the white text bar at the bottom of the window and start typing.

Anything that you type will be visible to all members of the group.
The text will appear in the lower left corner of your viewer and will be preceded by the letters “IM” and the chatter’s SL name.

To end the chat session, click on the orange “X” in the chat window of the conversion. This is the lower of the two orange “x”s that you will see.