

## How Do I Talk with Other People? (Typing)

There are many ways to communicate with others in Second life. You can send messages, by typing them on your keyboard, in much the same way you send instant messages using your cell phone, or you can speak with your voice.

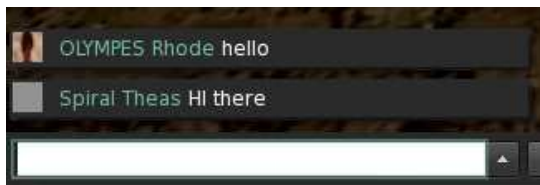
Let's look first at how to send typed messages.

### Sending Messages in Second Life

At the bottom left corner of your screen, you'll see a local chat window that looks like this:

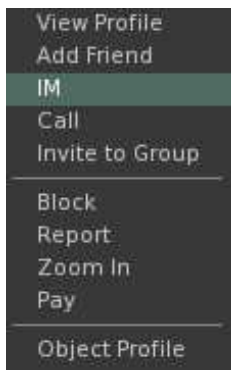


If you click your cursor in the blank white space, you can type a message here. Hit the return key when you're ready to send it. You'll see that the message you typed will appear in the screen area, alongside your avatar's name. You've just sent a message through "local chat". It's called local chat because everyone around you, in the local area (within 10-15 feet), can read it.



The conversation you (and others) have in local chat will appear momentarily on your screen, and then it will disappear after a few seconds. But you can retrieve the entire chat log of a given session by clicking on the small up-arrow to the right of the message writing box.

If you wanted to send a *private* message to someone (a message that only they can read), you can right-click on their avatar and select the option to "IM" (Instant Message) them.



Once you've right clicked and selected "IM", a new conversation window will open that looks like this:



This box will appear wherever there is space on your screen (and you can drag and drop it where ever you'd prefer to place it). You can type your message to that person in the white typing box at the bottom. Whatever message you send this way can only be read by the person you sent it to.

(Side note: notice you can also check out your contact's profile, add them as a friend, offer them a teleport, or pay them - all from this private IM window).

To send a private IM to an avatar who is not currently in world at the moment, you can find their name in your list of friends (friend panel on the right), right click on their name, select IM, and follow the same steps. The message you send will be saved for them to receive when they next enter Second Life.