

Social media platforms have significantly transformed the way humans interact by:

1. Changing Social Norms and Etiquette o Online communication introduced new norms, like using emojis, reaction icons , and even "muting microphones" during video calls (especially during COVID-19). o Example: On Zoom calls, people raise a virtual "yellow hand" emoji to indicate they want to speak.
- Supporting Both Synchronous and Asynchronous Interaction o Communication can now happen instantly (chatting in real time) or with delays (leaving comments or sending messages that the other person reads later).
- Replacing Face-to-Face Conversations o Instead of traditional in-person conversations, people now often communicate through messaging apps like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or Instagram DMs.
- Creating Digital Friendships o The number of friends people have online (e.g., on Facebook or LinkedIn) often exceeds the number of close friends in real life.
- Social Gaming and Community Building o Games like Minecraft and social apps build communities where people collaborate, compete, and form relationships, even without ever meeting physically.
- Blurring the Boundaries Between Public and Private Life o People now share personal moments (birthdays, travels, achievements) with a wide audience instead of a small circle. o Example: Someone might have 500+ friends on Facebook but only interact .closely with 5-10 of them offline.

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