

tvtropes.org

Rules of the Internet - TV Tropes

8–9 minutes

"Rules of the Internet" is a [loose collection of rules and aphorisms](#) spawned by [4chan](#). Depending on whom you ask, they are either not meant to be taken seriously or are very [Serious Business](#). Most of them don't apply except for within the community they originated from, and the list is continuously changing, but through [Memetic Mutation](#), a handful have become well-known.

Also, almost none of the numbers are standardized, so it's not uncommon to find many rules reordered or simply replaced altogether. The only numbers that *are* standardized are [Rule 34](#), [Rule 50](#), and [Rule 63](#), as well as possibly Rules 1 and 2 (and that's probably only because of [Fight Club](#)).

Some of the more notable rules^{note} include:

- Rule 0: Don't fuck with cats.
- Rule 1: You don't talk about [/b/](#). [Explanation](#)
- Rule 2: [You DON'T talk about /b/](#).
- Rule 3: We are [Anonymous](#). [Explanation](#)
- Rule 4: [We are legion](#). [Explanation](#)
- Rule 5: [We do not forgive, we do not forget](#). [Explanation](#)
- Rule 6: [Anonymous can be a horrible, senseless, uncaring](#)

[monster](#). Explanation

- Rule 7: Anonymous is still able to deliver. Explanation
- Rule 8: There are no real rules about posting. Explanation
- Rule 9: [There are no real rules about moderation either](#) — enjoy your ban. Explanation
- Rule 10: [/b/](#) is not your personal army. Explanation
- Rule 11: No matter how much you love debating, keep in mind that no one on the internet debates. [Instead they mock your intelligence as well as your parents](#). Explanation
- Rule 12: Anything you say can and will be used against you. Explanation
- Rule 13: Anything you say can and will be turned into something else. Explanation
- Rule 14: Do not argue with [trolls](#) — it means they win. Explanation
- Rule 15: The harder you try, the harder you will fail. Explanation
- Rule 16: If you fail in epic proportions, it may just become a [winning failure](#). Explanation
- Rule 17: Every win [fails eventually](#). Explanation
- Rule 18: Everything that can be labelled [can be hated](#). Explanation
- Rule 19: The more you hate it, [the stronger it gets](#). Explanation
- Rule 20: [Nothing is to be taken seriously](#).
- Rules 21-24: Original content is original only for a few seconds

before it's no longer original. Copy-pasta is made to ruin every last bit of originality. Copy-pasta is made to ruin every last bit of originality. Every post is always a repost of a repost. [Explanation](#)

- Rule 29: On the internet men are men, [women are also men](#), and kids are [undercover FBI agents](#). [Explanation](#)
- Rule 30: Girls do not exist on the internet. [Explanation](#)
- Rule 31: Tits or GTFO - the choice is yours. [Explanation](#)
- Rule 32: You must have pictures to prove your statements/Anything can be explained with a picture. [Explanation](#)
- Rule 33: Lurk more — it's never enough. [Explanation](#)
- [Rule 34](#): If it exists, [there is porn of it](#). No exceptions.
- Rule 35: [If there is no porn of it, porn will be made of it](#).
- Rule 36: No matter how [fucked up](#) it is, there is always worse than what you just saw.
- Rule 37: You cannot divide by zero (just because the calculator says so) [Explanation](#)
- Rule 38: No real limits of any kind apply here — not even the sky. [Explanation](#)
- Rule 39: [CAPS LOCK IS CRUISE CONTROL FOR COOL](#) [Explanation](#)
- Rule 40: EVEN WITH CRUISE CONTROL YOU STILL HAVE TO STEER [Explanation](#)
- Rule 41: Desu isn't funny. Seriously guys. It's worse than Chuck Norris jokes. ^{note} [Explanation](#)
- Rule 42: [Nothing is Sacred](#). [Explanation](#)

- Rule 43: [The more beautiful and pure a thing is](#) — [the more satisfying it is to corrupt it](#).
- Rule 44: If it exists, there is a version of it for your fandom... and it [has a wiki](#) and possibly a tabletop version with a theme song performed by a [Vocaloid](#).
- Rule 45: When one sees a lion, one must get in the car.
Explanation
- Rule 46: [The internet is SERIOUS FUCKING BUSINESS](#).
Explanation
- Rule 47: [The pool is always closed](#). Explanation
- Rule 48: [The only good hentai is Yuri, that's how the internet works](#). Only exception may be Vanilla. ^{note}
- Rule 49: No matter what it is, it is somebody's [fetish](#).
- [Rule 50](#): A [Crossover](#), no matter how improbable, will eventually happen in [Fan Art](#), [Fan Fiction](#), or [official release material](#), often through fanfiction of it.
- Rule 61: [Chuck Norris](#) is the exception, no exceptions.
- Rule 62: [It has been cracked and pirated](#). [You can find anything if you look long enough](#).
- [Rule 63](#): For every given male character, [there is a female version of that character](#) (and vice-versa). [And there is always porn of that character](#).
- Rule 64: If it exists, [there's an AU of it](#).
- Rule 65: If there isn't, there will be.
- Rule 66: Everything has a fandom, everything.
- Rule 67: [90% of fanfiction is the stuff of nightmares](#).

- Rule 70: Do not talk about the 100M GET failure. [Explanation](#)
- Rule 72: If a song exists, there's a [Megalovania](#) version of it.
- Rule 77: [The Internet makes you stupid](#).

Tropes Named by the Rules of the Internet:

- [Divide by Zero](#): Trope namer is rule 37
- [Rule 34](#): "There's porn of it"
- [Rule 50](#): "There's a crossover with it"
- [Rule 63](#): "There's a gender-flipped version of it"
- [Serious Business](#): named by rule 46
- [There Are No Girls on the Internet](#) : Rule 30, memetic version

Tropes associated with the Rules of the Internet:

- [The Artifact](#):
- The references to /b/ are due to it being the most popular 4chan board when the rules were first written. Since then, it has been overtaken by /v/ and then /pol/. Ironically, this means Rules 1 and 2 are unintentionally more obeyed than ever before.
- Although the rules as a whole have faded into obscurity, "Rule 34" and "Rule 63" are still frequently used when referring to pornographic and gender-swapped art, respectively.
- [Corrupt the Cutie](#): Rule 43
- [Crossover](#): Rules 50 and Rule 44; There are even cases of well-known video game characters, turned into ponies, and then modded into Touhou games. You can control [Pyramid Head Pony](#) in a [SHMUP](#) that used to feature [Moe](#) anime girls.
- [Digital Piracy Is Evil](#) and/or [Digital Piracy Is Okay](#): Rule 62

- [Epic Fail](#): Rules 15 and 16.
- [Exactly What It Says on the Tin](#): Rule 9001 is "It's [over 9000!!!](#)"
- [Forced Meme](#): Rule 41 is a reminder that repeating something over and over again doesn't make it funny nor does it make it a meme.
- [Four Is Death](#): Rule 4
- [G.I.F.T.](#): Rule 7, Rule 12, Rule 13, Rule 14, Rule 18, Rule 42 and Rule 43 are pretty [G.I.F.T](#)ed.
- Rule 48 is metaphor for "[G.I.F.T](#)ed people always spoil the fun".
- [G.I.R.L.](#): Rule 29 and Rule 30
- [Girl on Girl Is Hot](#): Rule 48
- [Homage](#): Rules 1 and 2.
- [Hypocritical Humor](#): Many of the rules contradict themselves later.
- [Information Wants to Be Free](#): Rule 62
- [The Internet Is for Porn](#): Rule 34. Yes, there is even [porn of this very trope](#).
- [Memetic Mutation](#): Everywhere. They *are* the rules of this trope, after all.
- [Morton's Fork](#): Rule 35
- [Pedo Hunt](#): Rule 29
- [Screw the Rules, I Have Money!](#): Perhaps the only surefire way to exempt yourself from any rule of the internet — or even real life — is to use your massive affluence to make yourself immune from any rules. Who would tell you you're breaking the rules when you're the one with their tax money?

- [Screw the Rules, I Make Them!](#): Rule 10 and Rule 38
- [Shaped Like Itself](#): Rule 9001
- [Shout-Out](#): Many rules of the internet are references, e.g. Rule 42 or rules particular to certain communities that may be localised memes.
- Rule 42 is a subversion in that it states "nothing is sacred". It's effectively an anti-shoutout.
- [Sparse List of Rules](#): [Rule 34](#) was written first, and even now there are a number of gaps of varying size.
- [Streisand Effect](#): The idea behind Rule 19. The more you want something to not happen, the more likely it will happen just to piss you off.
- [Subverted Kids' Show](#): Rule 43 in action — corrupting an innocent kid's show into something amusing to adults.
- [The Wiki Rule](#): Rule 44 includes this.

NO EXCEPTIONS!