

Trolling meaning

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Trolling is when someone makes a deliberately provocative comment or post and waits for people to take the bait. Online "trolls" are not always bad -- they can be mischievous and they can prompt people to talk...

Application of the term troll is subjective. Some readers may characterize a post as trolling, while others may regard the same post as a legitimate contribution to the discussion, even if controversial.⁹ More potent acts of trolling are blatant harassment or off-topic banter.¹⁰ However, the term Internet troll has also been applied to information warfare, hate speech, and even political activism.¹¹

The "Trollface" is an image occasionally used to indicate trolling in Internet culture.¹²¹³¹⁴

One common strategy for dealing with online trolls is to ignore them. This approach, known as "don't feed the trolls," is based on the idea that trolls seek attention and reactions. By withholding these, the troll may lose interest and stop their disruptive behavior.

However, ignoring trolls is not always effective. Some argue that trolls may interpret a lack of response as a weakness and escalate their harassment. Reporting the troll to the platform administrators may be necessary in such cases. Most online platforms have guidelines against harassment and abuse, and reporting the troll can lead to their account being suspended or banned.²¹

There are competing theories of where and when "troll" was first used in Internet slang, with numerous unattested accounts of BBS and Usenet origins in the early 1980s or before.²²

By the late 1990s, alt.folklore.urban had such heavy traffic and participation that trolling of this sort was frowned upon. Others expanded the term to include the practice of playing a seriously misinformed user, even in newsgroups where one was not a regular; these were often attempts at humor rather than provocation. The noun troll usually referred to an act of trolling - or to the resulting discussion - rather than to the author, though some posts punned on the dual meaning of troll.³⁷

The August 26, 1997 strip of webcomic Kevin and Kell used the word troll to describe those that deliberately harass or provoke other Internet users, similar to the modern sense of the word.³⁸

In Hebrew the word תרול (troll) refers both to internet trolls, who engage in disruptive behavior on social media and online platforms, or to the mythical creatures similar to trolls found in European mythology.⁴⁰ The word is also inflected into a verb form, תרולת (troll), which means to engage in trolling behavior on the internet or social media.⁴¹

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In Icelandic, þurs (a thurs) or tröll (a troll) may refer to trolls, the verbs þursa (to troll) or þursast (to be trolling, to troll about) may be used.

In Japanese, *tsuri* (釣) means "fishing" and refers to intentionally misleading posts whose only purpose is to get the readers to react, i.e. get trolled. *Arashi* (嵐) means "laying waste" and can also be used to refer to simple spamming.[citation needed]

In Korean, nak-si (??) means "fishing" and refers to Internet trolling attempts, as well as purposely misleading post titles. A person who recognizes the troll after having responded (or, in case of a post title, nak-si, having read the actual post) would often refer to themselves as a caught fish.ί]

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