

Elmo's Internet Support Network

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Furry: (adjective) /'fɜː.ri/ covered with fur.
Example: The furry cat enjoyed being petted.
2. Joke: (noun) /dʒoʊk/ a humorous story, prank, or witty remark.
Example: His joke made everyone laugh.
3. Burn (verb): /bɜːn/ to cause to suffer emotionally; to insult or criticize.
Example: Her harsh words burned him deeply.
4. Anxious: (adjective) /'æŋk.jəs/ feeling worried, nervous, or uneasy about something.
Example: She felt anxious before her job interview.
5. Check in: (phrasal verb) /tʃek ɪn/ to briefly communicate or connect with someone, often to provide updates or see how they are doing.
Example: I'll check in with you later to see if you need anything.
6. Neighbor: (noun) /'nei.bər/ a person who lives near or next to another.
Example: Our neighbors brought over cookies to welcome us to the neighborhood.



When feeling a little sad, sometimes all we need is someone to listen. But would you share your feelings with a red **furry** monster on the internet? Well, thousands of people have been doing exactly that! Elmo, one of the Muppets from the TV show Sesame Street, received thousands of messages on X after asking one simple question: "How is everybody doing?" People from all over the world replied, and many of them didn't have good news to share.

Some of the replies sounded very sad, although others may have been using their replies to tell **jokes** about their problems. "Every morning, I cannot wait to go back to sleep. Every Monday, I cannot wait for Friday to come. Every single day and every single week for life," one user wrote. "The world is **burning** around us, Elmo," wrote YouTuber Steven McInerney.

Others said they had lost their jobs or were feeling **anxious**. Some of the other Sesame Street characters also replied to Elmo. Bert said: "I'm here if you ever need a shoulder to lean on. I'll make us both a warm cup of tea." Elmo later replied to the messages, saying: "Wow!

Elmo is glad he asked! Elmo learned that it is important to ask a friend how they are doing. Elmo will **check in** again soon, friends! Elmo loves you."

And US President Joe Biden even wrote a message of support for the red monster. "Our friend Elmo is right: We have to be there for each other, offer our help to a **neighbor** in need, and above all else, ask for help when we need it." "Even though it's hard, you're never alone."

DISCUSSION

1. If you were feeling sad, would you feel comfortable sharing your feelings with a fictional character like Elmo? Why or why not?
2. How do you think people feel when they receive supportive messages from characters like Elmo or Bert?
3. Have you ever received unexpected support from someone or something you didn't expect, like a fictional character or celebrity? How did it make you feel?
4. If you could send a message to a character from your favorite TV show or movie, what would you say and why?
5. Do you think sharing your feelings online can sometimes be easier than talking about them in person? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever reached out for support or comfort from someone unexpected, like a fictional character, during a challenging time? If so, what was the outcome?
7. What do you think Elmo learned from the responses he received, and how might it change the way he interacts with others in the future?
8. If you could choose any fictional character to receive support from during a tough time, who would it be and why?