

Social Networking



What is social networking?

It's when people use computers and the Internet to talk and make friends with other people.

Some people on social networks could be friends of yours, relatives, and classmates from real life, *but...*

most people on the Internet are total strangers!

They can be *anyone, anywhere, and not* be nice to know.

FACT:



Not everyone online is nice or good,
even if they call themselves your "friend."

Some people could be very bad!



FACT:

Social networking can be dangerous if you are not careful!

Just like in the real world, the Internet has good and bad people. On the Internet, people could **pretend to be someone else**. They might **pretend to know you** or say they know someone you know. They might **ask questions**. **You do not have to talk to them. You do not have to answer their questions!**

Before you join any social networking website or try talking to any strangers anywhere, **talk with your parent or guardian about it**. Don't ever let "friends" pressure you into something you are not ready for and cannot handle alone. **Ask a grown-up for help!**

If you *do* talk to your parents and they let you join a website, learn how that website works so that **if you need to ignore someone** (like a **jerk** or a **bully**) you know how to do that when the time comes. If someone bothers you, **report that person** right away.



Remember: *anything* you say on the Internet can *stay there forever*. Whatever you do or say can come back to haunt you forever! Don't make quick choices. **Before you talk or do anything, just THINK!**

Later on, you will be happy you did!