



What's Going On?

Teasing and bullying are not exactly the same thing.

- Bullying is meant to hurt. People who bully are more powerful than the ones who are bullied. Bullying usually occurs repeatedly over time and escalates in severity.
- Teasing can be friendly or mean. Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference. You might tease someone in a friendly way and unintentionally hurt them.

Read each example below. Mark each one:

FT = Friendly Teasing, **MT** = mean teasing, **B** = Bullying, and **?** = Don't Know.

- _____ 1. Sam got a new haircut. Now Laurie calls him "peach fuzz" and rubs his head every chance she gets.
- _____ 2. Every day at lunch, Mike comes looking for Jason. He grabs Jason's sandwich, takes a bite, and walks away.
- _____ 3. Paul is afraid to walk home after school because Roger always waits for him at the corner. Roger calls Paul names, threatens him, and sometimes grabs his books or his backpack.
- _____ 4. Kim told everybody in the class that Annie is disgusting and that they should ignore her. Now nobody will talk to Annie or have anything to do with her.
- _____ 5. Every day, Amy and Nicole call Sean on the phone five or six times. Sometimes they giggle and hang up; other times they whisper Sean's name over and over.
- _____ 6. Vonnie goes to speech class to work on speaking more distinctly. Yolanda and Iris make fun of Vonnie's speech. They imitate the way she talks, call her "stupid" and "dummy," and hold their noses when she comes near them.
- _____ 7. When Ellen started playing the drums, Joe started calling her "Drummer Girl."
- _____ 8. Tim is in second grade. Zack and Brian are fifth graders. Every morning, they sit behind Tim on the school bus and tell him about the awful things they will do to him if they see him in school.
- _____ 9. Ed and Cary like to chase girls on the playground and flip their skirts.
- _____ 10. Zack doesn't care for sports and his friends are girls. Lately several boys have started calling him Barbie.