

Friendly Teasing vs. Hurtful Teasing



FRIENDLY TEASING	VERSUS	HURTFUL TEASING
Equal power; friends	vs.	Imbalance of friends power; Not friends
Neutral topic	vs.	Sensitive topic
Playful purpose	vs.	Purpose to upset
Purpose is to include	vs.	Purpose is to exclude
Funny	vs.	Sarcastic

- ▣ Teasing, just like bullying, is a *power issue*. Bullies use hurtful teasing to establish or maintain power over someone.
- ▣ It is *never OK* to tease people about a personal topic they are sensitive about.
- ▣ Before you tease someone, *ask yourself why* you are doing it.
- ▣ Your *intention* is what counts. If your teasing is intended to make someone feel left out, they you are involved in hurtful teasing.
- ▣ *Sarcasm* is often meant to put someone down.



Remember...The person being teased makes the decision about whether the teasing is friendly or hurtful. Just because the teaser says "I was kidding" doesn't make it okay.

