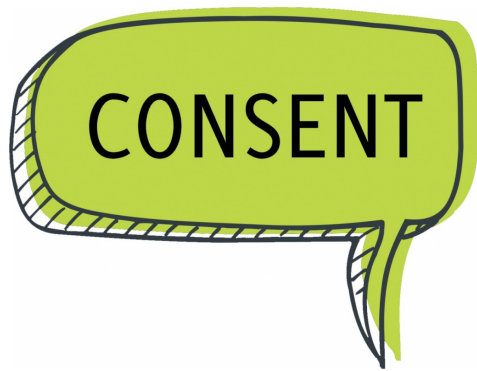


Is It Consensual?



The Definition

Consent is an agreement to do something in life.

Sexual consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity.

Consent is about communication. This communication should happen every time before sexual contact. Giving consent for one activity, one time, does not mean giving consent for increased or recurring sexual contact. For example, agreeing to kiss someone doesn't give that person permission to remove your clothes. Having sex with someone in the past doesn't give that person permission to have sex with you again in the future.

What It Is

Affirmative consent is clear, voluntary, and active.

Through clear words or actions, a person indicates permission to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity at the same time, in the same way.

What It Is Not

Affirmative consent cannot be obtained by silence or force.

Wearing certain clothes, flirting, accepting a ride, or hanging out together is not consent to anything more.

Saying yes (or saying nothing) while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not consent.

Giving in to something because you feel too pressured or afraid to say no is not consent.

Ask Questions

If you are in the heat of the moment, here are some suggestions of things to say:

- Are you comfortable?
- Is this okay?
- Do you want to slow down?
- Do you want to go any further?
- Are you still okay with this?
- Are you sure?

National Sexual Assault Hotline

Free and confidential, 24/7: 1-800-656-HOPE



Sources: RAINN, LoveIsRespect.org, Colby.edu

Reference: Scott Todnem **Social Media Contact:** Twitter: [@ScottAmpersand](https://twitter.com/ScottAmpersand); Facebook: [@MrTodnem](https://www.facebook.com/MrTodnem)

Consent Scenarios

Directions

Choose **three** of the following scenarios to finish narrating. **Only three of the five are required.** Use a separate Google Doc and submit all three scenarios, labeled correctly, with as many appropriate details as you feel necessary. Each narrative should be at least a paragraph long.

Scenario #1

Ann and Tom have been dating for about a year. Although they have engaged in some sexual touching, they have never had sexual intercourse. One night, as they are cuddling, Tom decides that they have waited long enough and starts pressuring Ann to have sex with him. He tells her if she really loved him, she would have sex with him. Tom then threatens to break up with Ann if they don't have sex. Ann verbally expresses her hesitance to have sex but then goes silent. Tom interprets Ann's silence as a sign that she has changed her mind and proceeds to have sex with her. Ann doesn't say anything—she doesn't continue her verbal protest, but she also doesn't say no.

Is this consensual contact? Narrate the next paragraph in this story. Start with, "This is not consensual because..."

Feel free to include any further questions or conversation that should have occurred, and any courses of action for Ann to take.

Scenario #2

Ryan and Derrick meet at a party and start talking. They hit it off immediately and find a quiet corner to make out in. Over the course of the evening, Derrick consumes much more alcohol than Ryan does and is slurring his speech and having a hard time standing up. Ryan recognizes that Derrick is drunk but likes that he is being playful and flirtatious. Ryan suggests that they go into a bedroom. Derrick agrees but has to be physically steadied as they enter the empty room. Derrick flops on the bed and closes his eyes. Ryan is relieved that Derrick isn't getting sick after all that he's had to drink. Ryan asks Derrick if they can make out more. Derrick mumbles something that Ryan can't understand but seems to cooperate as Ryan keeps kissing and touching Derrick.

Is this consensual contact? Narrate the next paragraph in this story. Start with, "This is not consensual because..."

Feel free to include any further questions or conversation that should have occurred, and any courses of action for Derrick to take.

Scenario #3

Elizabeth and John are in a new sexual relationship. Things are going very well and Elizabeth is particularly impressed with John--she has been bragging to her friends about him and wants to show off. So, she hides a phone in her bedroom and takes a video of them having sex. John is unaware of the camera.

Is this consensual contact? Narrate the next paragraph in this story. Start with, "This is not consensual because..."

Feel free to include any further questions or conversation that should have occurred, and any courses of action for John to take.

Scenario #4

Jennifer and Bailey are always the first two people in their 3rd period class. They pass the time before class starts by chatting about upcoming homework assignments and quizzes. As the school year progresses, their interactions become more flirtatious. One day, as Jennifer is passing Bailey on her way to her desk, Bailey pats Jennifer on the butt. Jennifer explains to Bailey that she doesn't feel comfortable with that kind of physical contact, but Bailey does it again the next day.

Is this consensual contact? Narrate the next paragraph in this story. Start with, "This is not consensual because..."

Feel free to include any further questions or conversation that should have occurred, and any courses of action for Bailey to take.

Scenario #5

Mallory and Nick have been dating for four months. One night, Nick admits to Mallory that he has developed feelings for someone else and needs to break off their relationship. Mallory feels betrayed and is determined to figure out who Nick's new crush is. Mallory starts hanging around Nick's locker, showing up outside of his classes, and following him to the cafeteria. She also keeps tabs on him by sending him texts and calling his cell phone. Nick tells Mallory that she needs to stop contacting him, but she continues anyway. Eventually, Nick's friends begin to complain about Mallory's random questions, noting that she refuses to give up and gets angry when they tell her Nick isn't interested anymore. She has even dropped by his house a number of times. Given this behavior, Nick begins to fear for his safety. He's not sure when he'll run into Mallory or what state of mind she'll be in.

Is this consensual contact? Narrate the next paragraph in this story. Start with, "This is not consensual because..."

Feel free to include any further questions or conversation that should have occurred, and any courses of action for Nick to take.

Teacher Notes

For debriefing, or maybe a few hints in case students need a place to start.

Scenario #1

Tom is engaging in sexual coercion by threatening to break up with Ann if she doesn't have sex with him, and he is violating two requirements of sexual consent. In hoping that Ann will "give in" to his advances, he is violating the requirement for sexual consent to be freely given. In choosing to interpret Ann's silence as indicating that she has changed her mind and decided to have sex with him, he is violating the requirement for consent to be clearly articulated.

Scenario #2

Ryan is engaging in non-consensual contact. While Ryan and Derrick start out the evening with mutual flirting, Derrick's eventual drunkenness renders him incapable of giving consent. Ryan is aware that Derrick is too drunk to speak clearly and stand up on his own, and so he could reasonably be expected to understand that Ryan is too drunk to consent to further physical contact.

Scenario #3

Elizabeth is engaging in sexual exploitation. She is taking sexual advantage of John for her own benefit by tricking John into documenting their sexual activity. In doing so, she is also violating a requirement of sexual consent—she is preventing John from giving fully informed consent because she has created a scenario in which John does not have full knowledge of what is happening.

Scenario #4

Bailey is engaging in non-consensual sexual contact. Bailey is touching Jennifer on a private body part without Jennifer's consent, and Bailey is not respecting Jennifer's request to stop such behavior. Although Jennifer has flirted with Bailey, that does not give Bailey the right to touch Jennifer in any way that makes Jennifer uncomfortable.

Scenario #5

Mallory is stalking Nick. While it is normal to feel hurt and lonely after a breakup, Mallory's persistent and unwelcome contact with Nick is unhealthy and can be considered harassment. Nick has asked Mallory to stop contacting him, but Mallory refuses to do so. This has caused Nick to become reasonably concerned about his safety.



CONSENT

Freely Given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

