

Is this bullying?

1. A boy in your class was sick and didn't make it to the bathroom in time. Now the kids call him a mean name. You don't call him that, but you laugh along.

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

2. It's the same thing day after day-you see the boys on the bus pushing and shoving as they try to get off the bus to go to school.

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

3. There is a girl in your class who is different. Lately people have been writing terrible things about her on the computer, but they never say anything to her face.

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

4. A girl comes up to you in the lunchroom and says, "I don't mean to be rude, but you need to move. Only my friends sit here."

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

5. One day she's your friend, and the next day she's sitting with someone else and won't talk to you.

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

6. A girl asks, "Can I play with you guys?" One of your friends says, "Sorry, it's not going to work out today."

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

7. You sometimes stumble over words when you read aloud. The same girl always corrects you and says, "You don't know that?"

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

8. You said something kind of mean to a classmate about his mom's car. You apologized afterward and tried to be extra nice to him the rest of the day.

Yes, it's bullying

No it's not

1. Yes. Joining in the laughter means joining in the bullying. In fact, by encouraging the bullying. In fact, by encouraging the bullying, you may be doing as much harm as the bullies themselves.

2. Maybe. Are these boys horsing around playfully, or is one or more of them trying to hurt or scare the others? Unwanted touching is absolutely bullying. In a situation like this, talk to the bus driver or another trusted adult.

3. Absolutely. Gossiping - or talking behind someone's back - is one of the most hurtful forms of bullying. Using the internet or cell phones to bully is called cyberbullying, and it's never OK.

4. Yes. Saying "I don't mean to be rude" or "no offense" doesn't excuse bossy behavior. This girl may think she's a leader, but bossing people around isn't leading - it's bullying.

5. Yes. Being an on-again, off-again friend is bullying. If you've tried to talk to her and the bullying keeps happening, you two may need a break. Let your friend know that you need space, but be polite when you see her.

6. Maybe. If someone has been treating you and your friends badly, you don't have to play with her. But if your friend is leaving this girl out to make her feel bad, then yes, that's bullying.

7. It depends. While this girl may be bragging about her own reading ability, she is embarrassing you in the process. Ask her to please stop. If she doesn't, then yes - it's absolutely bullying.

8. No. We all say stupid things once in a while. You let this boy know that you were sorry. It happened once and you did your best to make it right. It was a mistake, not bullying.

These questions are taken from the book "Stand Up for Yourself and Your Friends: Dealing with Bullies and Bossiness and Finding a Better Way." By Patty Kelley Criswell