

## Lesson: Cyber Bully

### Lesson Topic: Bullying through the Computer Screen

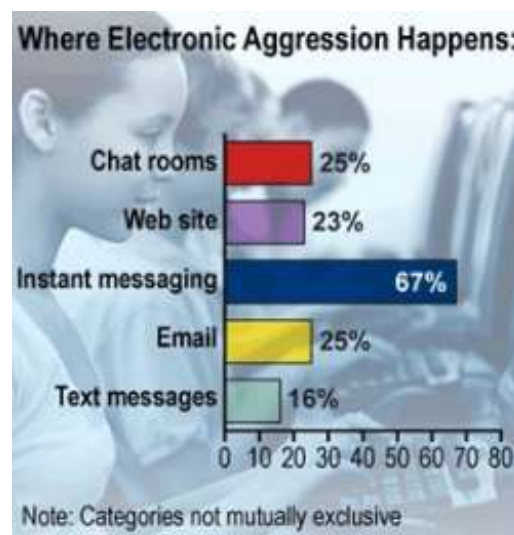
# Bullying Through the Computer Screen

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Have you ever been pushed around, teased, or taunted in your class? If so, maybe a bully was trying to make you feel bad. But bullies don't always do mean things in person. Sometimes, they use the cover of the Internet to bully people.

Cyber bullying is when a person uses the Internet, mobile phones, or online games to threaten, tease, or upset people. It's scarier than normal bullying because it can happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



□ Cyber bullying can happen through email, social media websites, or even text messages.

If you're being bullied at school, you can probably find a way to escape the situation. But if you're being cyber bullied, it can feel like there isn't any escape. Cyber bullies usually make up false names to hide who they are. They may set up fake accounts, conceal their Internet addresses, or block their cell phone numbers.

If someone is cyber bullying you or one of your friends, what should you do? You should tell your parents or another trusted adult. Help your parents understand that it isn't the Internet but abuse of the Internet that causes the problem. Block the bully, but make sure to print out any posts or emails that you've been sent. You'll need to show these to your parents or, if it doesn't stop, the police.

Don't share passwords, and don't give out information you don't want someone else to see. Don't write, send, or forward mean messages. You might want to respond to the bully by bullying back. This makes the bully mad, and it can turn into an even worse situation.

You should never accept the mean things that someone says about you. The reason that bullies do what they do is because *they* feel inferior. They want to step on you, so they can feel they have power. Don't play into their mean games. Remember that whatever a bully says is probably not true.

**Question 1:**

According to the article, why might a bully prefer to use the Internet?

Check all that are true.

- ☐ They can do it without people knowing who they are.
- ☐ They can harass someone any time they want.
- ☐ They can have a permanent record of the bullying.
- ☐ They can more easily tell the truth.
- ☐ They can be easily blocked.

**Question 2:**

What are the two main purposes of this article?

Check all that are true.

- ☐ to tell how cyber bullies hide who they are
- ☐ to describe cyber bullying
- ☐ to inform victims of cyber bullies to tell an adult
- ☐ to explain that cyber bullying can happen anytime
- ☐ to give advice to victims of cyber bullying

**Question 3:**

What is the relationship between the Internet and cyber bullies?

- ☐ Cyber bullies abuse the Internet.
- ☐ The Internet makes cyber bullies feel inferior.
- ☐ The Internet causes cyber bullying.
- ☐ Cyber bullies own the Internet.

**Question 4:**

Read the passage below.

*You should never accept the mean things that someone says about you. The reason that bullies do what they do is because they feel **inferior**. They want to step on you, so they can feel they have power.*

What does the word **inferior** mean?

- ☐ not good enough
- ☐ bigger than life
- ☐ mean as a snake
- ☐ better than others

**Question 5:**

What best describes the organization of this article?

- ☐ Steps in a process are carefully detailed.
- ☐ Events are described in the order they occurred.
- ☐ A problem is described, and then solutions are presented.
- ☐ A cause is described, and then its effects.

**Question 6:**

How is the article's description of online bullying different from Charity's experience in "Cyber Bully"?

- ☐ The article doesn't mention that the Internet makes it easier to bully.
- ☐ The article says that cyber bullies pick on others to feel better than them.
- ☐ The article doesn't mention the influence of peer pressure on cyber bullies.
- ☐ The article says that adults can help solve situations involving cyber bullies.

**Question 7:**

What source could you use to find out how many children in the U.S. each year are victims of cyber bullying?

- ☐ a research report on identity thieves
- ☐ a government website about Internet safety
- ☐ an online ad for a social media site
- ☐ a newspaper article about the newest cell phone

**Question 8:**

The author claims that the Internet is not the problem in the case of cyber bullying. What additional detail would *best* support this claim?

- ☐ Over 90% of kids are active on social media sites. Of those, 45% have become cyber bullies.
- ☐ Over 90% of kids are active on social media sites. Of those, only 55% have been cyber bullied.
- ☐ Before the Internet, 3% of school aged kids bullied others. Now, 10% bully in person or online.
- ☐ Before the Internet, 3% of school aged kids bullied others. Now, 3% bully in person or online.

**Question 9:**

What kind of information would most reliably tell us why people decide to be cyber bullies?

- ☐ fictional stories like "Cyber Bully"
- ☐ interviews with several former bullies
- ☐ a series of essays written by victims of bullying
- ☐ data on the frequency of online bullying