

Name _____

Teasing vs. Bullying: Understanding the Difference

Short Answer Key

1. Example of teasing: Making playful jokes about a friend's taste in music, with both parties laughing and enjoying the banter. This is considered teasing because it involves light-hearted, reciprocal playfulness.
2. Bullying is characterized by an intent to harm, intimidate, or control someone, setting it apart from teasing. The intent in bullying is to exert power and dominance over the victim, while teasing is meant to be playful and non-harmful.
3. Consent is important in distinguishing between teasing and bullying because teasing usually involves an unspoken agreement between those involved, while bullying is unwanted and harmful behavior that the victim does not consent to.
4. When witnessing teasing that may be crossing the line into bullying, individuals can intervene by addressing the situation, discouraging harmful behavior, and supporting the victim. They can also report the behavior to authorities or trusted adults.
5. The emotional consequences of bullying can be more severe than the emotional impact of teasing. Bullying can lead to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and even physical harm, whereas teasing is typically light-hearted and less emotionally damaging.

