

What's Cyberbullying?

Directions

Read the story of Sondra below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Sondra is planning a birthday sleepover. Her parents have set a limit of eight girls, so Sondra can't invite everyone she'd like.

Two girls, who are left out of the party, overhear the plans. They decide to create a "We Hate Sondra Jones" website. They say that anyone invited to the party should not go. They share the website with everyone in school. The girls also tell everyone to add new reasons why they hate Sondra and to spread mean rumors about her.

When Sondra hears about the site, she gets a sick feeling in her stomach. Each day she finds a new mean comment or joke about her on the website. She feels hurt and embarrassed. She tells her parents she is sick, so she won't have to go to school.

Is this a cyberbullying situation? Why or why not? _____

Who are the cyberbullies? _____

Who is the target? _____

How do you think Sondra feels? _____

Why do you think the two girls made the mean website about Sondra?

What advice would you give Sondra about how to handle the situation?

What do you think the people who are bullying Sondra would say about their behavior?

What's Cyberbullying?

1. Dean is a target of cyberbullying. He gets a text message from Eric that says, "You are such a loser. I can't believe you made us lose the game yesterday with that lame shot." Dean notices that all of the other members of his soccer team got the message about him too. Dean probably feels:

- a) Sad and hurt
- b) Like it's not a big deal
- c) Fine

2. What are some similarities and differences between in-person bullying and cyberbullying? Write the letter that goes with each answer in the correct space in the diagram below.

- a) Makes people feel sad, angry, hurt, and embarrassed
- b) Can cause physical harm
- c) Can cause emotional harm
- d) The bully's identity can be anonymous, or unknown
- e) Can be witnessed by a bystander
- f) Can be stopped or made better by an upstander

In-Person Bullying Only	Both In-Person Bullying and Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying Only

3. TJ keeps getting mean messages from someone online. Circle the answers below that show what TJ should do in response. (You may circle more than one answer.)

- a) TJ should block the bully.
- b) TJ should write mean messages back.
- c) TJ should tell an adult.

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Answer feedback

The correct answer is a. Eric is cyberbullying Dean. This is harmful to Dean, as well as to the rest of the team.

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b	a, c, e, f	d

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The correct answers are a and c. If you are cyberbullied like TJ, you could block the bully and talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling.