# Current Online Terms Glossary

Understand some of the language children might be using both online and offline when talking to their friends.

You don't need to learn these terms – use this as a reference if you hear a child use a word that you don't recognise.

This dictionary isn't exhaustive, but we'll continue to add more terms over time as they become relevant or noteworthy.

Children might not understand the words they're using.

This is especially true if your child is younger. It's important to remember that they:

- Might not mean to use this language in a hurtful way
- Might mean to use a different word

If you hear a child using a term you don’t recognise, you can ask them what they mean, and then check this resource to see if your child is using the word correctly.

If the term is potentially an offensive one, you can ask the child:

- “Do you know that some people might be offended by that word/phrase?”
- “Do you know why it might be a bad idea to say that?”

## Language related to cyber-bullying, harassment and cyber crime

| | | Automatically a crime? |
|---|---|---|
| **Cyberstalking** | Using the internet, social media, apps or text messages to repeatedly harass, monitor, track or intimidate someone, often across multiple platforms, accounts or devices. | **Often yes.** Repeated online stalking or harassment can be prosecuted under stalking and harassment laws in the UK. |
| **Doxing / doxxing** | Publicly posting someone's private information (e.g. their name, address, place of work or school), usually without their consent. This information might be used to harass the person further. | **Not necessarily, but can be.** Publishing someone's personal information is not a standalone offence in every case, but can lead to offences involving harassment, malicious communications, stalking, or data protection breaches. |
| **Dogpiling** | When a group of people, usually a large group, target a single person with harassment. | **Not a specific crime.** The behaviour could be criminal if it amounts to harassment, stalking, threats or malicious communications. |

## Language related to cyber-bullying, harassment and cyber crime

| | | Automatically a crime? |
|---|---|---|
| **Griefing** | Deliberately trying to ruin other people's fun in online games (e.g. destroying another player's house in Minecraft). | **Usually no.** However, separate acts connected to it (e.g. hacking an account) could be criminal. |
| **Finsta** | 'Fake Insta/Fake Instagram' – this may mean a second, private Instagram account for sharing more personal content with a trusted group of friends, **or** a second Instagram account made to look like another person, either to impersonate them or bully them (this is also known as a 'sock puppet account'). | **No.** However, using it to impersonate, harass, scam or bully someone could potentially involve criminal offences. |

## Language related to cyber-bullying, harassment and cyber crime

| | |
|---|---|
| **KYS** | Stands for 'kill yourself', used to harass or upset others. To get around language filters on some platforms, users might use ‘Keep Yourself Safe’, which is intended to mean ‘kill yourself’. |
| **Phishing** | A kind of scam where criminals trick targets into giving up personal information (including bank details or account passwords). |
| **Ratio / ratio’ing** | When a negative response to a social media post gets far more positive engagement than the original post. |
| **Swatting** | Calling emergency services (usually the police) and falsely claiming that a serious crime is happening at someone else's home (e.g. a bomb threat or a hostage situation), with the intent of police arriving at the person's house. This is done to harass and frighten someone. |
| **Troll / trolling** | Deliberately saying hurtful or inflammatory things to get a response from someone, or a group of people. |
| **Unalive / unaliving / unalived** | A way to say ‘dead’, ‘killing’, ‘killed’ to get around language filters on some platforms. |

Read the NSPCC’s guidance on talking to your child and supporting them if they’re being bullied.

## Language related to dating and sex

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| **Bodycount** | A way for someone to say how many people they've had sex with (e.g. 'my bodycount is 3'). |
| **Bop** | A term used to describe someone who has had a large number of sexual partners, or sexualises themselves on social media. This is usually meant to be derogatory and is mainly used to describe girls. |
| **Catfishing** | Pretending to be someone else on the internet (e.g. on dating apps), sometimes to trick others into sending them nude images and/or money. |
| **Ghosting** | Suddenly breaking off all contact with someone, which might include blocking, 'unfriending' or unfollowing them on all platforms. This usually happens in romantic relationships but can also happen between friends. |
| **Hook-up / hookup** | Casual sex and/or casual sexual relationships. |
| **Nudes** | Nude or semi-nude images. It's sometimes written as 'newds', 'noods' or 'n00ds' to avoid language filters on some apps. |
| **Seggs** | A way of saying ‘sex’ to get around language filters on some platforms. |
| **Thirst trap** | A sexually-suggestive photo or image intended to grab people's attention and boost engagement. It usually isn't a nude image so that it can be posted on social media. |

## Language related to the ‘manosphere’ and ‘incel’ culture

| | |
|---|---|
| **Manosphere** | A subculture focused on masculinity and opposition to feminism. It's sometimes called 'men's rights activism' or 'men going their own way' (MGTOW). |
| **Incel** | 'Involuntary celibate' – a subculture mostly made of young men who think they're unable to find a romantic or sexual partner. People in this group may blame women and girls for this, and use sexist and misogynistic language to describe women. |
| **‘Chad’, ‘Stacy’ and ‘Becky’** | Used by people in the incel subculture to describe conventionally-attractive men ('Chads') and women ('Stacys'). 'Becky' is a term used to describe a woman who is considered to be less attractive or sexually desirable than a Stacy. |
| **Taking the red pill** | To become aware of 'truths' about the world according to a subculture. This mostly relates to incel and manosphere culture, but is also used by far-right extremists (e.g. 'becoming red-pilled on race').<br>People in the incel subculture sometimes use the term 'black pill' – hopelessness that there is nothing a man can do to improve his attractiveness to women. |

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# Language related to the ‘manosphere’ and ‘incel’ culture

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sub-five / sub-5** | A person rated below a 5 out of 10. Being a ‘sub-five’ is often viewed as a permanent barrier to ever finding a partner. |
| **Y-pilled** | A nihilistic acceptance that destiny is fixed and cannot be changed, regardless of effort. This is usually based on the idea that our outcomes are genetically predetermined. |
| **Mewing** | A technique involving flattening the tongue against the roof of the mouth to define the jawline. |
| **Hunter eyes** | A prized facial feature characterised by almond-shaped, hooded eyes with corners pointing upward. |
| **It’s over/rope** | ‘It’s over’ implies there is no hope for a social life due to looks; ‘rope’ is a dark shorthand reference to suicide. |
| **Mogging** | Dominating someone else physically, such as standing next to them and looking taller, more muscular or attractive in comparison. |
| **Femoid / foid** | A derogatory term for women, implying that they are less than human. Sometimes replaced with 'FHO' (female humanoid organism). |
| **AWALT** | Short for 'all women are like that', used to generalise women's behaviour and demonise them. |

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## Language related to the ‘manosphere’ and ‘incel’ culture

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|---|---|
| **Looksmaxxing** | The process of attempting to maximise physical appearance through various methods to increase social and romantic standing. This online trend primarily focuses on the appearance of boys and young men. The term originated in ‘incel’ culture, but has lately become prevalent in mainstream spaces. |
| **Softmaxxing** | Reversible or ‘normal’ grooming (haircuts, skincare, going to the gym). |
| **Hardmaxxing** | Permanent or dangerous interventions (cosmetic surgery, steroid use, or DIY physical changes, for example, ‘bonesmashing’). |
| **Looksism** | The belief that appearance is the main or only factor that determines how a person is treated by society and their level of success. |
| **Sexual market value (SMV)** | A score assigned to an individual based on their perceived attractiveness and status, suggesting that human relationships operate like a marketplace. |
| **Looks-minus** | A perceived physical flaw or a ‘deduction’ from someone’s overall attractiveness score. |

Wide media coverage of a popular TV show suggests that emojis like 🧨, 💯 and 🫘 may be used as part of conversations online about incel culture and the manosphere.

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## Language related to other extreme beliefs

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|---|---|
| **Great replacement** | A far-right conspiracy theory stating that the global elite is deliberately replacing the population of white people (mainly in Europe) with non-white people.<br>It's related to 'white genocide' (see below). |
| **White genocide** | A far-right conspiracy theory stating that there is a plot to make white people extinct. |
| **'Austrian painter'** | A way for users to discuss Adolf Hitler (often positively, but not always) while avoiding language filters on some platforms. |
| | 'Juice', which is sometimes used instead of typing 'Jews' when discussing antisemitic conspiracy theories or making antisemitic comments. |

# Emojis with inappropriate meanings

Emojis can have lots of different meanings and most of the time children and young people will use them innocently. However, they might sometimes use them to discuss inappropriate things like drugs or sex.

If you see a child using these emojis, it doesn't necessarily mean they're using them in the ways described below.

Emojis change their meanings over time and can mean different things, depending on the context.

In this list, we've focused on emojis with inappropriate meanings that are widely recognised.

## Drugs related emojis

| | |
|---|---|
| 🌿 🥦 🍃 | Cannabis |
| ❄️ ☃️ 🎱 | Cocaine |
| 👀 🍜 | Nudes/noods – short for nude or semi-nude photos |
| 🔌 | Plug – slang term for a drug dealer |
| 🌽 | Pornography (rhyming 'porn' with 'corn') |

## Emojis relating to misogyny and online harms

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔴 | Red Pill | "Woken up" to misogynistic beliefs |
| 🔵 | Blue Pill | "Blind" to society's lies |
| 💥 | Dynamite | Radicalisation |
| 🫘 | Kidney Bean | Mocking women |
| 💯 | 100 | "80/20 rule" belief (only top 20% of men are attractive) |
| 🐸 | Frog | Pepe meme, often used in far-right memes |
| 🦅 | Eagle | Nationalism/far-right symbolism |
| 💀 | Skull | Nihilism or dark humour |

## Emojis relating mental health and self-harm

| | |
|---|---|
| 🔪 | Cutting |
| 🖤 | Depression |
| 💔 | Heartbreak |
| 😶‍🌫️ | Dissociation |
| 🍽️ | Eating disorder symbol |
| 🌪️ | Chaos, emotional overwhelm |
| 🕳️ | Depression, hopelessness |