

Video chat - what would you do?



This resource has been produced to support teachers and other professionals working with young people to discuss the topic of video chat and using webcams. The resource includes the following:

- An introduction for staff on the topic of video chat and how their students may engage with it
- Two scenario based activities to support students and staff in discussing some of the risks of video chat

What is video chat?

Live video chat and streaming has become a common way for people to connect, communicate and share their ideas and experiences online.

Most smartphones, tablets or laptops now possess a camera, with people using these as their primary way to take photos and videos. Additionally, the availability of instant video chat services enabling either one on one conversations, or group chats, has grown, and a wider number of social media apps and services now offer this too. It's never been easier to stay in touch with family and friends online.

Many social networking sites now offer the option to live-stream. This is a little bit like hosting your own live TV show - users can broadcast live video to all their friends and followers, or if they have a public account, anyone who tunes in.

How can I teach young people about video chat?

You can teach students about chatting over a webcam the same way you teach them about other aspects of online safety. Start by talking to your students about their online lives and their experiences of video chatting: What video chat apps do they use? Do they use video chat to speak to family who live far away, or to catch up with their friends from school over the weekend? What do they like about using video chat services?

Use what you find out to then inform the messages you're delivering in the classroom. Lots of the key online safety messages that your students may already be familiar with can be adapted and discussed specifically in relation to video chat.

For more guidance specific to video chats and webcams visit: www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals/for-working-with-young-people/hot-topics/video-chat-and-webcams



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This resource is designed to be adapted to best suit the needs of different students. It focuses on the benefits and risks of young people using video chat to communicate. This activity is scenario based and can be used as the basis for an entire lesson on video chats or as quick activity in a wider lesson on online safety.

Part 1

What would you do?

This activity consists of 3 scenarios for students to think about and discuss.

Key points to consider for each scenario include:

- ⇒ Why does this person want to video chat with you?
- ⇒ What is your relationship to the person asking for a video chat and how does that impact your decision?
- ⇒ What you will see on screen if you accept a video call?

Scenario 1

WILKO2712 X



awesome game, great to have you in the clan

we're meeting up in london next wkend, wanna join?

u on skype? whats your username? lets chat before the meet

hello? why arent you answering?

What would you do?

- A. Give them my username, it's no big deal
- B. Say no to the video chat
- C. Chat to them over video chat but never actually meet up with them
- D. Something else

Guidance notes

Safest choice: B

This person is a stranger. Even though it seems like you have been playing with them for a while, and they seem friendly, you have no way of truly knowing if you can trust them, and if they are who they say they are.

If they know your video chat username, you may be putting yourself at risk of receiving further contact from this person. If you agree to a video chat, you have no way of knowing what will be shown on screen as the call starts. It may be one person, it may be several people, or it may be a scene that is upsetting or shocking. Whilst you could end the call, an upsetting experience can be more difficult to forget.

If a stranger online ever asks for a video chat or to meet up, the safest choice is to say no. If this person doesn't accept your answer, and keeps pressuring you to video chat or meet up, you can block them and report them to the site or service they are messaging you on. You can also report them to CEOP www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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Video chat - what would you do?

Scenario 2

Unknown number

hey will, i'm dev's friend. I'm here with dev at his house. can we facetime you?

ok... so how do you know Dev?

i live near him. so, lets call you in 5 yeah?

What would you do?

- A. Answer the video call, you're both friends with Dev
- B. Contact Dev to find out more
- C. Decline the call
- D. Something else

Guidance notes

Safest choice: B and C

This person may say they are a friend of a friend, but that does not mean they are your friend, or that you can trust them to be who they say they are. You have no other information about this person, which makes them a stranger.

You have no way of knowing what may appear on screen if you answer the call. This person might not be with Dev, or know him at all. There is no clear reason why this person is requesting a video call, and no confirmation from Dev. This call might be a joke, a prank, or a way to upset or hurt you.

If possible, you could contact your friend Dev directly and ask about this message to find out more.

If you can't check with Dev, the safest thing to do is to decline the call.

If this person keeps requesting to call you, you could also block their number, and report to them to your service provider.

Scenario 3

just seen your story! So jealous you get to see our favourite band while i'm stuck doing homework :(

sorry sis! they are amazing btw

turn on video chat??

What would you do?

- A. Check your surroundings, then video call.
- B. Ignore the message
- C. Take a video and send that instead
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Video chat - what would you do?

Guidance notes

Safest choice: A

This person is a member of your close family, so it's okay to video call them.

However, before making or taking a video call, check you are somewhere safe. If you are in a busy place, such as a music venue or public transport, be aware of your physical safety. It's easy to focus on your phone and to forget to look out for any obstacles or people nearby.

Also be aware that video calls can quickly drain the battery on your phone. If you are out, or need your phone to help you get home or stay in touch with people you're with, consider whether it is worth making a video call. You could record a video instead, and send it to people later on.

Part 2

Video, voice or text— which do you prefer?

Video calls can be a really interactive and personal way to keep in touch with people. However, there are some situations when a phone call may be more appropriate, and sometimes you might prefer to contact someone with a text or a message instead.

Read the scenarios, and discuss which method you would prefer to use in each one, and why.

1. You are in the cinema and get a missed call. How do you reply?
2. You need to explain to your Dad why you'll be home late. How do you contact him?
3. Your friend moved to another country and you want find out how she is. How do you contact her?
4. You're at the bus stop but have missed the bus and need your brother to give you a lift to school. How do you ask him?
5. You're on holiday and you are missing your best friend's birthday. How do you contact her to wish her a happy birthday?

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Part 1: What would you do?

Look at the following scenarios. Each one requires a decision on whether to video call or not.

What would you do? Choose from the 4 options.

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Scenario 3

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What would you do?

- A. Check your surroundings, then video call.**
- B. Ignore the message**
- C. Take a video and send that instead**
- D. Something else**

Part 2 : Video, voice or text - Which do you prefer?

Read the scenarios, and discuss whether you would prefer to reply by video call, phone call or a text/message, and why.

1. You are in the cinema and get a missed call. How do you reply?
2. You need to explain to your Dad why you'll be home late. How do you contact him?
3. Your friend moved to another country and you want find out how she is. How do you contact her?
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