

# Do You Bully?

This text is provided courtesy of PACER Center\* ([www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)).

Think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around? Could be, but it can also be the cheerleader, the student council member, or the quiet kid. A lot of times, people think that appearance defines someone who bullies, but you can't tell who bullies just by looking at them. Students who bully can be any size, age, gender or grade.



## Then what does define someone who bullies?

The answer: It's his or her BEHAVIOR. It's bullying when someone uses words or action to hurt or harm someone else and that person has a hard time defending himself or herself.

Sometimes kids who bully might think that it's cool, fun or just "no big deal," but think about it - what is cool or fun about hurting someone? Name calling, tripping someone, laughing at the person, leaving the person out, ignoring him or her on purpose-how can hurting someone possibly be "no big deal"?

If kids think about why they are bullying, they can then deal with those reasons and change their behavior. You want cool? Now that's cool.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** What defines someone who bullies?

- A. his or her age
- B. his or her size
- C. his or her appearance
- D. his or her behavior

**2.** What does the author define and describe in this article?

- A. friendship
- B. studying
- C. bullying
- D. cooperation

**3.** Imagine that someone keeps calling you "a nerd." You ask the person to stop, but he or she ignores you. Based on the evidence in the text, what can you conclude about that person?

- A. That person is a bully.
- B. That person is not a bully.
- C. That person knows how to defend himself or herself.
- D. That person does not know how to defend himself or herself.

**4.** Imagine that someone has called you "a nerd." You ask the person to stop and explain your feelings have been hurt. He or she apologizes and never calls you a nerd again. Based on the evidence in the text, what can you conclude about that person?

- A. That person is a bully.
- B. That person is not a bully.
- C. That person knows how to defend himself or herself.
- D. That person does not know how to defend himself or herself.

**5.** What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Students who bully can be big and tough.
- B. Cheerleaders, student council members, and quiet kids can be bullies.
- C. Bullying is defined by behavior, not appearance.
- D. Kids who bully might think that bullying is cool or fun.

**6.** The title of this text is "Do You Bully?" Why might the author have written the title as a question?

- A. to encourage readers to pay more attention to their appearance
- B. to encourage readers to tell an adult if they are bullied
- C. to make readers think about whether they bully others
- D. to make readers feel bad about bullying others

**7.** Read these sentences from the text.

"Think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around? Could be, but it can also be the cheerleader, the student council member, or the quiet kid."

How could the first sentence be expanded without changing its meaning?

- A. When do you think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around?
- B. Do you think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around?
- C. Why do you think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around?
- D. Why would you think the person bullying is the big, tough kid on the playground who pushes everyone around?

**8.** According to the text, what might kids who bully think about bullying?

Include three pieces of information from the text in your answer.

**9.** Explain whether the author thinks bullying is "no big deal."

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

**10.** Why might the author have written this article?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.