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SHEHAP

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Sexual Harassment in social media





Exercise 1. Find the sexual harassment in the pictures.

1. Picture

A conversation on Whatsapp between two school buddies. They have seen each other but they do not know one another.



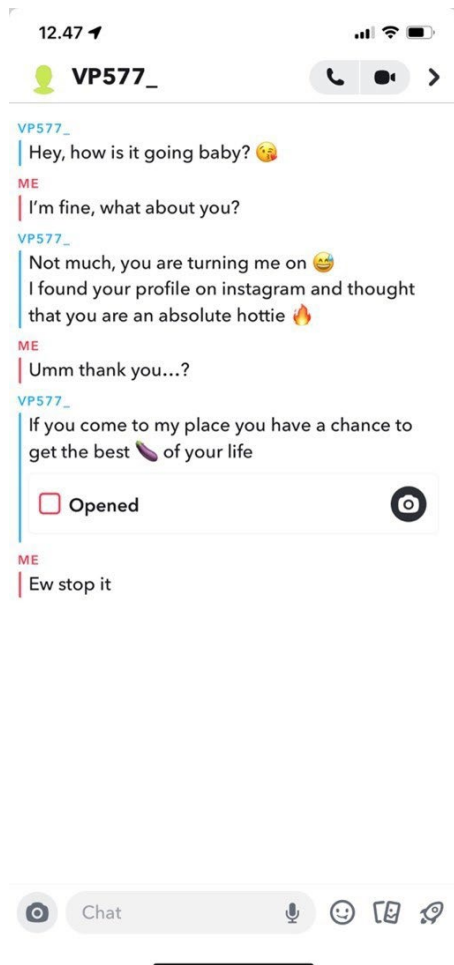
Sexual harassment that you can find in the picture:

- Sexually suggestive emojis
- Indecent comments about body parts and clothing
- The last message can be assumed as sexual harassment because of the previous messages and sexually suggestive emoji used in the message.
- The person keeps sending suggestive texts even though he doesn't get a welcoming response



2. Picture

A conversation on Snapchat between two strangers.



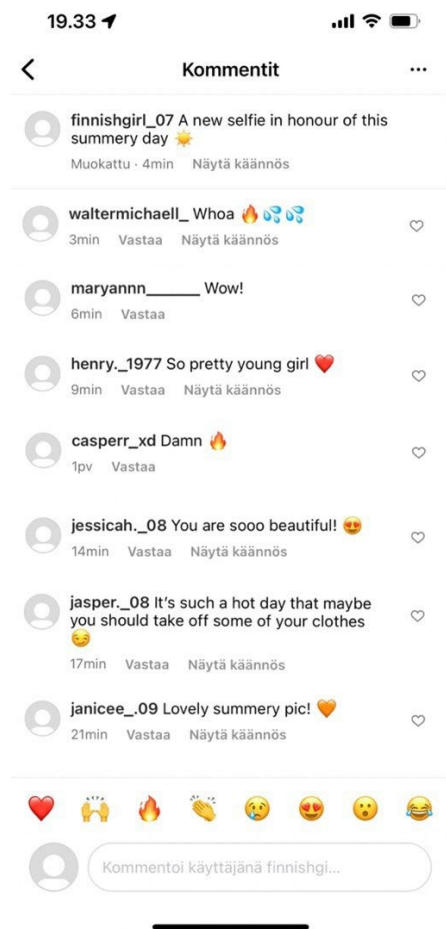
Sexual harassment that you can find in the picture:

- Sexually suggestive emojis
- Rude talk, sexual comments on appearance
- Straight-forward suggestion of sexual intercourse or other kinds of sexual activities
- Revealing photo sent without asking



3. Picture

Comments on Instagram. The person that downloaded the picture doesn't know all the commentators.





Sexual harassment that you can find in the picture:

- The first comment has some rude emojis. In this type of situation, it depends on what kind of relationship the commentator and the one receiving the comment have.
- The third comment is from an older man. The person that downloaded the picture is under sixteen years old, so this type of commenting is inappropriate. This comment is ambiguous as well, because the commentator might be, for example, the person's dad.
- The fourth comment is also ambiguous. Usually people use the fire-emoji in situations where they describe the person as hot or sexy. If the comment is from a stranger, it can be sexually offensive. The comment can also be a sarcastic joke from a friend, so it depends a lot of their relationship.
- The sixth comment clearly contains sexual suggestions and sexually suggestive emoji.





4. Picture

A conversation on Whatsapp between two friends who know each other from school.



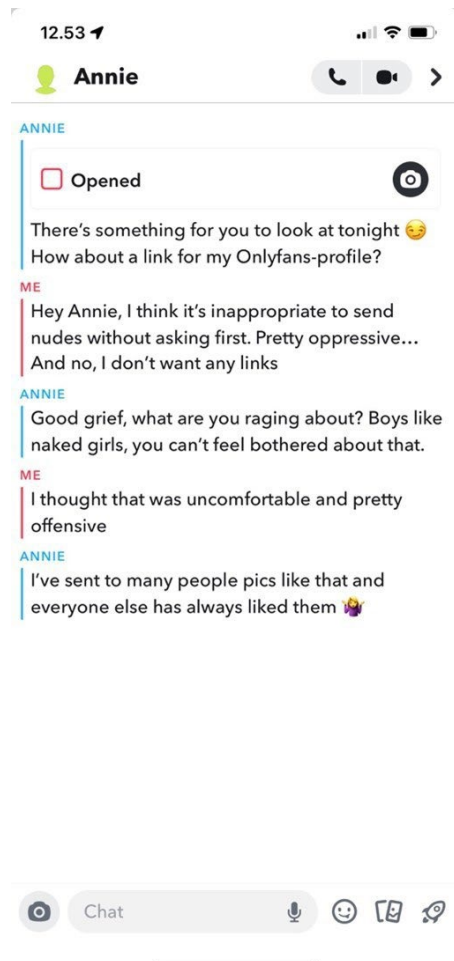
Sexual harassment that you can find in the picture:

- Comments about sexuality and private life
- Threat to send out rumors about sexual harassment



5. Picture

Conversation on Snapchat between friends who know each other from social media.



Sexual harassment that you can find in the picture:

- A nude photo sent without asking first
- Underestimating person's own actions (sexual harassment)
- Assuming that boys can't experience sexual harassment



Exercise 2. Case task

1. Jenny (15 yrs) has dated Jimmy (16 yrs). During the relationship Jenny has sent revealing photos of herself to Jimmy due to his wishes. Now they are broken up and Jimmy has started demanding more pictures from Jenny. Jimmy threatens to spread the pictures that Jenny has sent earlier online, if Jenny doesn't send more.

How would you advise Jenny to act in this situation?

Answers:

- Jimmy's actions are against the law. Jenny should tell about this to a grown up (her parents/teacher/school nurse), who could help Jenny to make a report of an offence.
- Jenny might feel shame, guilt or anxiety in this situation. She should, however, realize that the situation is not her fault, it's entirely Jimmy's fault.
- Jenny shouldn't tell Jimmy that she has told about the situation to a grown up. It's best not to react to Jimmy's texts.
- Jenny shouldn't delete Jimmy's texts because they might be useful later when they are investigating the crime.





2. Mindy (14 yrs) has started talking with Hannah (14 yrs) on an anonymous internet forum. They have become good friends and they tell each other everything. However, they have only talked with chats, and they haven't seen each other yet. Now Hannah has suggested that they should meet in real life as well.
- a) What risks are involved in the possible meeting?
 - b) What should Mindy and Hannah do, if they want to meet each other?

Answers:

- a) Mindy and Hannah have only talked anonymously. Either one of them could be a totally different person in real life than they have told online. One of them might be, for example, a grown-up who has bad intentions about the meeting. Posing as a teenage girl might be a way to lure the target into a meeting. Even if the other one has shared photos or videos doesn't mean that the person is who she says she is.
- b) Both of them should tell about the meeting to a grown up who could come to the meeting as well. In addition, the first meeting should always happen in a public place where there are other people as well. If the other one isn't who she was supposed to be, or the meeting starts to feel distressing, it's easier to leave from a public place.





3. Julia (17 yrs) goes actively to the gym. She has started taking videos of herself while she works out and she shares them on Instagram. Julia thinks that sharing videos and pictures are a great way to track her development and she finds it really motivating.

However, now she has started to get dirty private messages from anonymous people. Messages include insulting and sexual comments. One comment said that because Julia works out in tight workout wear, she clearly wants attention and those kind of comments. Julia feels ashamed and she is thinking about deleting her whole Instagram account.

How would you advise Julia?

Answers:

- Julia hasn't done anything wrong, so she has no reason to feel guilt or shame, even though those feelings are natural. The commentators should get all the blame.
- It's understandable that the situation feels distressing to Julia. She should talk about the situation to someone close or trustworthy. Talking about it relieves anxiety and helps to understand, that it wasn't her fault.
- Julia should block all the accounts that send her unpleasant messages. She should also ignore the messages and just delete them right away.
- Julia thought sharing videos and pictures was motivating, so she shouldn't change her way of acting just because someone else is acting wrong.





4. Miranda (16 yrs) is in a relationship with Tony (16 yrs). There is a 200 km distance between them, so they are in a long-distance relationship.

Tony has threatened to break up with Miranda, if Miranda doesn't agree to having phone sex with him. Tony thinks sex is a part of a relationship and when you are in a relationship, you shouldn't say no to it. Miranda finds the situation distressing and she wouldn't want to say yes, even though she is scared that they are going to break up.

How would you advise Miranda?

Answers:

- You need a consent to have sex in a relationship as well.
- Threatening someone to have sex is a form of sexual harassment. Tony is acting wrong in the situation. Miranda should wonder if she wants to be in a relationship with a person who pressures him and doesn't care about her feelings.





Exercise 3. Connect

Clearly sexual harassment / Can be interpreted as sexual harassment / No sexual harassment

Send pornographic material without a permission

Tell someone they look good

Ask about someone's day

Slap someone's bottom as a joke

Comment a picture on Instagram

Sexually suggestive gestures and expressions

Suggest of sexual intercourse

Tell a joke

Send a sexually suggestive letter

Flirt

Tell a ambiguous joke

Look at someone and smile

Touch without a permission

Comments referring to someone's clothes

Comments referring to someone's bodyparts

Touch someone's back

Ask for a coffee

Send a nude picture

Try to force someone to have sex

Flirt with a partner

There are no right or wrong answers. Many situations can be considered differently depending on the relationship between people, the actual situation, culture, verbal and non-verbal communication, for example.

