

BONUS CONTENT

CONVERSATION STARTERS

A CHILD'S GUIDE TO DIGITAL
RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY, AND ETIQUETTE

FIRST PHONE



**CATHERINE
PEARLMAN, PhD, LCSW**

25 CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR TEENS

- 1.** A friend asks you to delete a picture you took. You love the picture, but your friend hates it. What should you do? What if it is your friend who has an awful picture of you? What would you do?
- 2.** An acquaintance you like at school asks you to send a picture of a naked body part (any part). You really like this person so you may be afraid to say no. How might you handle it?
- 3.** A friend at school is using his phone to cheat on a test. What should you do?
- 4.** A friend posts on to her Instagram story that she is depressed and there is no point in living. She has been really feeling down lately. What would you do?
- 5.** What worries you about your cellphone, apps or usage?

6. Have you ever been on the receiving end of a mean text? How did you feel? What, if anything, did you do?
7. A friend texts you some nasty thoughts on another one of your friends—and ends with, “Don’t you agree?” How do you respond?
8. A friend takes a photo of one of your teachers with a pig snout attached to her face. He forwards it to you. What do you do with it?
9. Someone texts you an old picture of your friend. On the picture someone has drawn a mustache. You know your friend is sensitive about the hair on her body. Do you tell your friend? Do you contact school officials? Do you handle it in another way?
10. Your parents have told you not to start a Tik Tok account. They promise they’ll reconsider when you’re 15. But you’re 13, and all your friends are on. And you desperately want to be a part of it all. There are certainly ways to try without your parents knowing. How could you discuss this with your parents?

- 11.** A bunch of your friends have fake Instagram accounts that they use to remain anonymous on social media. Some of your friends have been using their fake accounts to say mean comments to a boy at your school. You aren't friends with him, but you feel kind of badly for him. What could you do?
- 12.** You get a text from AT&T, warning that if you don't text ASAP your phone number will be given to someone else. Do you text back?
- 13.** Your parent wants to check your phone every so often. You understand that it can be helpful to let them see what's going on. But at the same time you're embarrassed by some of the texts you send and receive. How could you address this problem with your parent?
- 14.** There's an offer on a Warriors fan site to win a free Steph Curry jersey if you just download something real quick. You love Steph Curry. What do you do? What steps do you take?

- 15.** A girl in class texts you that she has a crush on you. Your friend sees it, thinks it's hilarious and starts texting everyone about it. Do you say something to the girl? To your friend? Anyone?
- 16.** You get a surprise text from a friend's older brother asking if you want to come over and hang out. The brother has always seemed nice, but he is a lot older than you. You decline politely saying you are busy. The boy continues to pressure you to come over and it's making you uncomfortable. What could you do?
- 17.** An unrecognized number pops up in your texts. It says, "Hey bro, can you Venmo me \$50? I have to pay for my late library books. I will pay you back tomorrow." Would you help this person? What if it was a friend?
- 18.** Your grandma keeps texting you when you are at school. Then when you get home you don't feel like texting her. You find out she is hurt that you never text back. How could you handle it?

19. You are sitting in Starbucks waiting for a friend. You want to watch a video someone sent you, but you don't have headphones. Do you think it is ok to play out loud?
20. Lately you find yourself spending a lot of time mindlessly scrolling through TikTok videos. You are having a hard time focusing when you need to. What can you do to get help with this problem?
21. As you walk into Taco Bell to get a snack, you are on the phone with your best friend. She is telling you a great story. When you get up to the register you are still in the middle of the call. What should you do? Is it polite to talk on the phone while ordering?
22. Your parents want to use a tracking app on your phone because they say they worry about you when you aren't home. You really don't want to be tracked. What three points can you think of to explain why tracking you would not be helpful? What three points can you think of to explain why your parents might want to do it? Propose a good solution that addresses these points.

- 23.** You are trying to have a conversation with your mom but she keeps texting and looking at her Apple watch. How could you ask her to put the phone down?
- 24.** There was a fight in the yard at school. You happened to capture it on video. Your friends are pressuring you to share it to the secret school Instagram account. But you don't know if that's the right thing to do. What are the issues and why might you not want to share the video?
- 25.** A friend from Discord wants to meet up after school. You are pretty sure it's a kid because you've been talking online for two years. But at the same time, you are a little nervous to meet up. What should you do? Discuss the possible issues.

NOTE TO PARENTS

These conversation starters are your opportunity to listen, learn and engage with your teen. There is no right or wrong answer to these ethical dilemmas. Help your child learn about the issues and have open conversations. Some of these scenarios may have already happened to your child. They happen every day at school to someone. The point of the conversation is to open up the dialog so your child feels comfortable coming to you when they get stuck. Try very hard not to overreact, lecture or scold your child.

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