

Sexting

Why people sext, how to practise safer sexting and why sexting can be a problem.



As lots of people have phones with cameras it's easy to take a sexy picture and to send it to someone else. However only a small number of people actually do this (though loads more talk about it).

Lots of couples like to send each other sexy pics (and always have, even before digital cameras). It's a way of being sexual and intimate with someone and is good for long distance relationships or where a couple can't spend time together. Some couples do it to get their partner excited about seeing them again.

Most people that really want to do this (and haven't been hassled into it) don't have any problems at all. This is especially true in relationships where there is trust and clear boundaries about what is and what isn't ok both in real life and online.

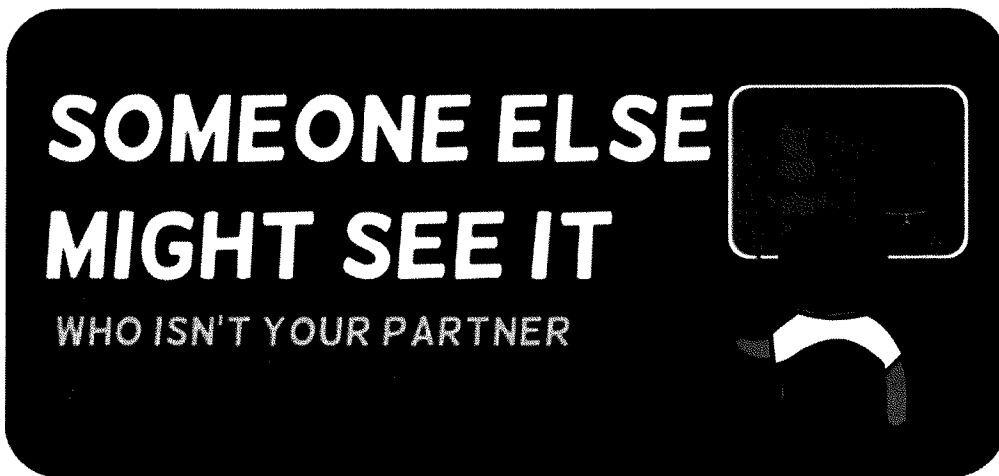
However sending each other sexy images or videos can be cause problems. Particularly if you or your partner are under 18



It can be quite a serious criminal offence to make a sexy image if someone in the image (or vid) is under 18. Someone taking an image with an under 18 year old in it is basically making child porn (even if taking a picture of themselves). Having that image on your phone, sending it to others and putting that image on a website are all criminal sexual offences too.

The Police are not that interested in prosecuting people in a relationship if they both consented to send and receive these pics. But they are much more likely to prosecute people who share images without the consent of both people involved. So the person sending them to their mates can possibly get in big trouble.

If someone has your pic/vid and is using it to bully you or is harassing you or threatening to send it to other people please tell the Police, they will help you and you won't be in trouble.



Your picture or video may end up getting seen by someone other than the person you sent it to. You might find it hot that your partner is looking at your picture, but what if they show other people, or what if their phone gets nicked, or what if someone steals the images? It's possible for people to put these images up online.

If you find your images online you can report them to the website. If they are breaking the law they will take them down but it may take some time to do this.

SAFER SEXTING

IF YOU'RE GONNA DO IT ANYWAY...



1. Ask before you send an image (asking is hot). If someone says no to sending or receiving an image don't do it and don't ask again: no means no, believe them. If they don't respect your 'no' do they really respect you?
2. Make sure you trust each other not to share it (even if you break up). Also make sure you actually know them in real life. If it's an internet only relationship please be very careful about sharing anything.
3. Understand the legal risks (see above)
4. Don't go further than you want to, just as with any kind of sex. Set your limits; eg you don't have to get naked if you don't want.
5. To limit the risks, leave your head out of the picture or just keep the image on your phone (just let your partner look at your image/vid on your phone).
6. Snapchat (an app where you can take and send pictures which are automatically deleted) might work for you but it is sometimes still possible to copy the image either with a screenshot or by taking a picture with another phone/camera. More on this from [Snapchathere](#).

Get the key facts in an image [here](#)

All above is from BishUK website

<http://bishuk.com/2011/02/15/sexting/> [Accessed February 2015]

