



Banter or Bullying?

Banter

- the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks
- "to make fun of (a person); to hold up to ridicule, 'roast'; to jest at,
- Banter involves people with equal power, where there is no hurt involved and no intent to cause harm. In no way are we saying that people can't make jokes but just be aware of the tipping point.
- Your tipping point is different from your friend's

Bullying

- use **superior strength** or influence to **intimidate** (someone)
- Bullying is **unwanted behaviour** among school aged children that involves a real or perceived **power imbalance**. The behaviour is **repeated**, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.
- **Verbal bullying** is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:
 - Teasing
 - Name-calling
 - Inappropriate sexual comments
 - Taunting
 - Threatening to cause harm

Is it Banter?

- Is it **intentional, hurtful, repetitive**, and involving a **power imbalance**?
- Language and behaviour can have different meanings in **different contexts**. If you are unsure, ask what was meant.
- Just because someone uses certain language to **refer to themselves** it doesn't necessarily mean it is acceptable, nor **does it make it okay for others to use it**.
- Just because some people think something is banter or a joke **it doesn't mean that other people will, nor does it make it harmless**.
- People **won't always feel confident to speak up** if they are offended by something. They might even go along with it so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- **Other people might be offended**, even if they are not directly part of the conversation.

Banter or bullying?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAwkckpkapA>

Still think it's banter?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=653B2hpkaZ4>

- If you have to justify that your comments are only 'Banter' then they probably aren't.
- You've probably gone too far.
- It's probably now bullying.