

Is it bullying or just being mean?

Becca thought it would be funny to put a “Kick Me!” sign on the back of Dylan’s shirt today.

Answer: NOT BULLYING. It says today. We can assume that she only did it today, using bad judgment, and not other days. However, if she does it tomorrow or even next week and it becomes a regular thing...it could be bullying, as long as she is meeting the other four criteria.

Every time Nick passes Erin’s desk he says, “Ugly!”

Answer: COULD BE BULLYING (as long as all of the other four criteria are met). It says every time. We can assume that Nick does this to Erin (the same people involved) on a regular basis, and since he does it often it is intentional. If it is intentional, it is probably meant to hurt her since it isn’t a nice comment. If Nick is more “powerful” than Erin (meaning he is bigger, scarier, more popular, etc.), then all the five criteria have been met for it to be considered a bullying situation.

NOTE: This doesn’t mean that Erin couldn’t be a bully in another situation to someone else or Nick couldn’t be a target.

“Pass your paper up! Come on, slowpoke!” a frustrated Cody said.

Answer: NOT BULLYING. It says Cody is frustrated. We can assume that he acted this way because he is feeling frustrated. However, if he continues to be “frustrated” with the same person all the time and call him/her names and it becomes a regular thing...it could be bullying, as long as he is meeting the other four criteria.

Brandon turned around and put a marker line on Jake’s paper.

Answer: NOT BULLYING. It doesn’t say that he does this often; it just sounds like he had a random thought and acted without thinking. We can assume that he only did it today, using bad judgment, and not other days. However, if he does something else later today, tomorrow or even next week and it becomes a regular thing...it could be bullying, as long as he is meeting the other four criteria.

Casey wants to play football at recess, but when he asks they tell him they already have teams again.

Answer: COULD BE BULLYING (as long as all of the other four criteria are met). It says that it is happening again. We can assume that Casey asks on a regular basis to play, and since they won't let him play it seems like it could be intentional. If it is intentional, it is probably meant to hurt him since it is excluding him. Because they are a group, they are more "powerful" than Casey (meaning he is bigger, scarier, more popular, etc.), then all the five criteria have been met for it to be considered a bullying situation. The biggest question would be whether or not they are intentionally keeping him from playing or if he is just getting to the game after it is well underway and they don't want to have to start over.

"I don't want you in my group," said Kelly.

Answer: NOT BULLYING. It says Kelly just says it, not says it again. We can assume that she only did it this time, using bad judgment, and not other days. However, if she does it every time that person is placed near her, in a group, in line by her, etc., and it becomes a regular thing...it could be bullying, as long as she is meeting the other four criteria.

Today Melanie found another note on her desk that said: "Your nose is big!"

Answer: COULD BE BULLYING (as long as all of the other four criteria are met). It says Melanie found another note. We can assume that someone or several someones are doing this together (the same people involved) on a regular basis, and since he/she/they do/does it often it is intentional. If it is intentional, it is probably meant to hurt her since it isn't a nice comment. He/She/They are more "powerful" than Melanie (meaning bigger, scarier, more popular, etc.) just in the fact that she doesn't know where it is coming from and that is unsettling, then all the five criteria have been met for it to be considered a bullying situation.

NOTE: Bullies don't have to be just one person. Bullies can be a group of people working together to torment someone. As long as it is the same group, it is considered the "same" people involved because they are doing it with the one-mind intention of hurting that person.

“I don’t like you,” Jacob told Sam again after art this morning.

Answer: COULD BE BULLYING (as long as all of the other four criteria are met). It says again. We can assume that Jacob does this to Sam (the same people involved) on a regular basis, and since he does it often it is intentional. If it is intentional, it is probably meant to hurt him since it isn’t a nice comment. If Jacob is more “powerful” than Sam (meaning he is bigger, scarier, more popular, etc.), then all the five criteria have been met for it to be considered a bullying situation.