

Bullying

Word list

to bully

1 : to frighten, hurt, or threaten (a smaller or weaker person)

▪ A group of girls were *bullying* [= *picking on*] her at the playground.

2 : to cause (someone) to do something by making threats or insults or by using force — usually + *into*

▪ His boss *bullied* him *into* working overtime

to pick on

1 : to laugh at or make fun of (someone) in an unkind way

▪ Kids used to *pick on* me for wearing old worn-out clothes.

2 : to unfairly criticize (one person or group) when others also deserve to be criticized

▪ It's unfair to *pick on* teachers for the problems in our schools when politicians are equally to blame.

to fight back

1 : to attack or try to defeat someone who is attacking or trying to defeat you

▪ We can't just let them make these accusations against us. We need to *fight back*!

2 : to make a new effort against an opponent

▪ They fell behind early in the game, but they were able to *fight back* and tie the score in the second half. —

rumour

information or a story that is passed from person to person but has not been proven to be true [*count*]

▪ There are *rumors* that they are making a new film.

self-esteem

a feeling of having respect for yourself and your abilities

▪ low/high *self-esteem* ▪ programs to raise/build *self-esteem* among children

respect

1 : a feeling of admiring someone or something that is good, valuable, important, etc.

- He has earned/gained/won their *respect*.

2 : a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way

- She showed no *respect* [=consideration] for my feelings.

trust

1 : belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.

- Our relationship is founded on mutual love and *trust*.

confident

1 a : having a feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something : having confidence

- The class made me more *confident* (about myself)

upset

1 : angry or unhappy

- I was feeling *upset* by/about the whole experience.

cruel

1 — used to describe people who hurt others and do not feel sorry about it

- a *cruel* dictator/tyrant ▪ Children can be *cruel*, as any child who has been made fun of by others knows.

hurtful

causing injury or emotional pain ; *especially* : cruel or unkind

- She can't forgive him for the *hurtful* things he said. ▪ *hurtful* gossip ▪ Their comments were really *hurtful* to me.

target

1 : something that you are trying to do or achieve

- We failed to meet/reach this month's sales *targets*

2 : a place, thing, or person at which an attack is aimed

- He was a favorite *target* of the media. [=the media often attacked/criticized him]

anxious

afraid or nervous especially about what may happen : feeling anxiety

- She feels *anxious* and depressed. ▪ They are *anxious* [=worried, concerned] about their son's health.

nickname

a name (such as “Moose” or “Lady Bird”) that is different from your real name but is what your family, friends, etc., call you when they are talking to you or about you

- His mother gave him the *nickname* “Winky” when he was a baby.