

# Text, text chat and picture messaging

Texts can be sent between mobiles and also from computers. As well as one-to-one messaging, you can have a text conversation with several people at the same time in a chat room. Texting in a chat room is done anonymously using nicknames.

Picture messages are like text messages but can contain photos, videos and sounds. Picture messages can be kept on your mobile and also sent to an online album, where they can be stored, altered and re-sent to other people. Mobiles can also receive information and entertainment services by text or picture messaging, such as celebrity gossip or football scores. You have to sign up to these services and they're charged at a premium rate. Some services are classified as 18+ and are only available to people who have proved they're 18 or older.

**To check whether your child's mobile can receive premium rate picture messages designed for over 18's, call 61018 or visit [o2.co.uk/ageverification](http://o2.co.uk/ageverification).**

We moderate our public chat forums and use technology to automatically filter out people posting phone numbers, personal details and obscene language.

'18 classification' premium rate text and picture messages are only available to people who have first confirmed that they are 18 or older.

## Talking points

- You can't withhold a number when you send a text message from a mobile, so any text you send or receive can be traced.
- Text chat has the same kinds of risks as online chat services. People in chat rooms are sometimes not who they say they are, and friends you make online are still strangers.
- A photo can be forwarded to other people or posted on the Internet. So a picture you send to a small group of friends might be seen by millions of people worldwide.
- Tell an adult if you get a photo or a video that shows someone being hurt. Taking pictures or filming someone being attacked can be a very serious offence. It also can be illegal to send this sort of photo or video to another person.
- Make sure you never send offensive pictures or messages. It could get you into serious trouble.

