

## Friendly teasing versus hurtful teasing

Friendly Teasing		Hurtful Teasing
Equal Power; friends	vs.	Imbalance of friends power; not friends
Neutral topic	vs.	Sensitive topic
Playful Purpose	vs.	Purpose is to upset
Purpose is to include	vs.	Purpose is to exclude
Funny	vs.	Sarcastic (a put down hidden in a joke)

***Most important: the person being teased makes the decision about whether the teasing is friendly or hurtful. Just because the teaser says he/she was “just kidding” does not make it okay. The person getting teased makes that decision.***

*Hurtful teasing is bullying. Hurtful teasing is used to establish power or maintain power over someone or at the very least, to make the person feel bad.*