



10 Things to know about: Snapchat



What is it?

Snapchat is a free photo and video sharing app. Teens love the ability to "share a silly moment" with their friends, and in less than 10 seconds, the photo disappears.



But wait...

Many assume that because video and photo texts, or "snaps" as they are called, disappear in just a few seconds the app is totally harmless. However, photos can be saved as screenshots. The sender is notified when this happens.



You agreed

When you send a Snap to someone via "Snapchat," you give Snapchat a "non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, sublicensable and transferable license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such user content in connection with the services, subject to your use of privacy settings in the services to control who can see your user content." See [Terms of Use](#)



What's the story?

A "Snapchat Story" is a set of photos or videos that can be made public to the user's entire friend list. The story is only viewable for 24 hours, but it can be viewed an unlimited number of times during that window.



Snapchat 'light'

A modified version, "Snapkidz," is available for children younger than 13. They can still take Snaps, draw on them and create captions. However, the function of sending or receiving Snaps is not supported.



Sexting

While it is certainly not the stated primary use of the app, there have been reports about Snapchat being used for "sexting"—taking naked or sexually suggestive pictures of oneself and sending them to someone else. Kids feel a sense of false security because the pictures "disappear," but they can still be saved.



Regulars

If an emoji appears next to a friend's name on their snapchat list, it usually means this is someone that they send pictures and videos to often. See the meaning of each emoji [here](#).



Discover

The "Discover" page can be found when the user swipes the screen to the right. This features stories from different brands and news media outlets. If a story appears that a user deems inappropriate, there is no way to "hide" any of them on this page.



Money

"Snapcash" allows users to send each other money through the app. The terms of use require the user to be 18+ and have a credit/debit card or a checking account.



Be careful

Users can view Snapchat original television shows in the app. These are designed for short attention spans, and often feature content that is shocking or inappropriate. There is no way to monitor what is being viewed, and the user cannot "unfollow" these channels.