

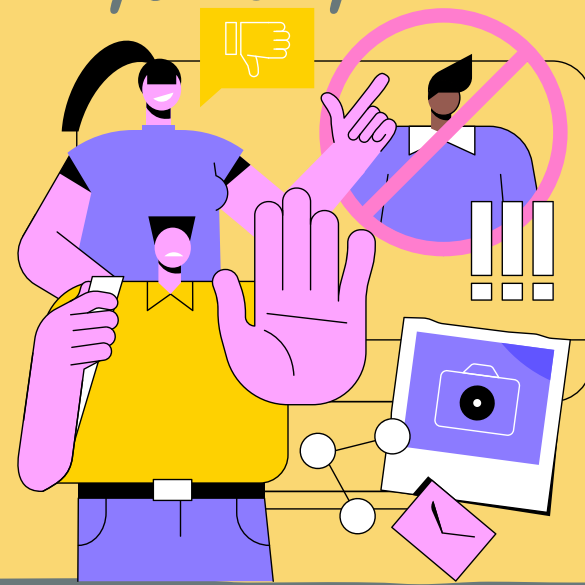
# WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU?

Fake profiles - let's take a closer look

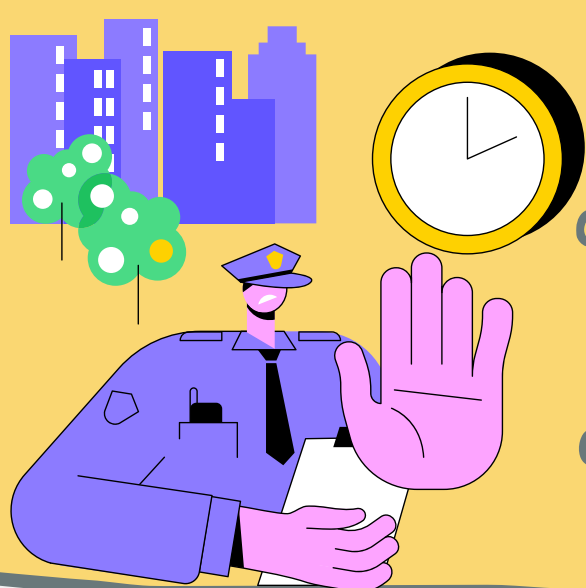
It can feel like a bit of a laugh pretending to be your mate for a bit online but it's important to remember the risks - to you AND them.



Just the same as it feels horrible and scary to find out that the person you've been chatting to online is not who they said they were... catfishing and fake profiles can destroy trust between friends and make it difficult for people to believe what you say



Even if it started as a joke, if you use a fake account to harass others or share inappropriate content - this could be illegal.



If you have got into an online argument with someone and you're tempted to up the stakes by creating a fake account of them, talk to an adult you trust instead. They may be able to help you resolve the situation without causing more trouble.

If someone has set up a fake profile, pretending to be you - here's what you can do:

- Report the fake account on the social media platform so they can take down the account
- If they are bullying or harassing you (using racist or homophobic language for example) - you can report to the police on 101
- Use Childline's Report, Remove Tool if nude images have been shared of you without your consent.
- Speak to Childline on 0800 11 11
- <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/child/> is a great site for reporting bullying, trolling or harassment.
- Text SHOUT to 85258 if you need emotional support.

