

Consent Yes or No Cards? Answers

We're in a relationship?

Not automatically, no. It doesn't matter how long you've been going out, you can never assume the person you're with is always consenting to sex acts. In fact, most sexual assaults and rapes occur in relationships.

They're drunk/on drugs?

No. Someone must be in a sober and clear state of mind to give consent. Obviously people react to drink and drugs in different ways, and there's a difference between being tipsy and being off your face. If you've only just met someone though, you don't know what they're like when wasted, so always be considerate and careful. If in doubt, don't go there.

They're under 16 but want to have sex?

No, legally they're considered too young to be able to give consent.

They're unconscious?

No. If someone has passed out or asleep, they are unable to give consent. Even if they are your partner.

They've been flirting with me?

No. Even if you're 90% sure this person thinks you're God's gift and have been flirting or 'leading you on'. This does not mean they owe you any sex.

They're wearing a revealing outfit?

No. It doesn't matter what someone is wearing – whether it be a low-cut top, a tiny skirt, or a onesie – it's no indication of whether they want to have sex or not.

I asked them and they said 'no', but after I persisted they said 'yes'?

No. Pressuring, persuading, or coercing someone into saying 'yes' is very unhealthy behaviour and does not give you consent even if they give in.

They've not said 'no' out loud:

A lack of a clear no doesn't mean it's a clear yes. It's really common for somebody under sexual pressure to totally freeze up and not feel able to speak. If they don't seem into it, stop. They don't have to yell 'NO' to make it clear it's a no.

We're already kissing?

No. Giving consent to one sexual activity does not count as consent for others. If you want to go to the next level, gets the conversation going.

They said 'yes' then changed their mind halfway through?

No. Consent can always be taken back during sex. It isn't a binding contract. If they stop, you stop. Even if they don't say 'stop' but they seem freaked out, stiff and uncommunicative – stop, and ask them if they're OK.

They said yes after I asked to kiss them?

As long as both people are above the legal age (16) and are consenting then it is ok. Important to mention that some young people are sexually consenting between the ages of 13-16 and sexual health services can confidentially support them to have safe sex as long as they are Fraser competent. **(Fraser Guidelines in Appendices)**

We started kissing then she wanted to take it further, we are both 17?

As long as both adults consent.

They wanted to wait but now they said they are ready?

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