



YouTube

CONVERSATION CARD
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YOUTUBE – WHAT IS IT?

Get to know YouTube

YouTube is a video platform that attracts two types of users, video creators (who create and have their own channels and the upload their own videos to those channels) and video viewers, (who are users that watch and view videos and subscribe).

Anyone with access to a computer or mobile device and an internet connection can watch YouTube content and share their own. The evolution of this platform has seen popular creators of videos on YouTube labelled as YouTubers. YouTubers have developed targeted language and strategies that are purposefully included in their videos that promote the opportunity for viewers to return and view future content shared on this YouTubers channel. Information about YouTube channels and specific YouTubers (including the quality and appropriateness of this content) is not well documented.

What about YouTube Kids? YouTube Kids is branch from YouTube that uses the YouTube video algorithm along with Artificial Intelligence to determine which content is suited for kids, and which isn't. Sounds incredible, but can be a false scence of security as algorithm is flawed



LEARN THE LINGO

Key Features and terms to help you converse about YouTube

Subscribe or 'Sub'

A way to stay updated about new videos posted by a particular YouTuber or YouTube Channel.

YouTuber

A person who create a large following on YouTube. YouTubers often make an income from high volume video views and ad revenue.

Channel

A YouTuber may create a channel that you can subscribe to. Channels can be able a particular topic of interest. General YouTube users can also create channels/lists of their favourite YouTube videos.

Trending

Videos on YouTube that have recently received a high volume of traffic or views.

Autoplay

A feature of YouTube that enables another suggested video to automatically start playing once the video you chose to watch has concluded.

Live Stream

Rather than pre-recording and uploading a video to YouTube some users will live stream straight to the platform. This means that content will less likely be filtered by YouTube



SAFE SET UP GUIDE

What can we do to make YouTube Safer?

If you ultimately decide you want your kids to access YouTube but would like to limit what your children can view, there are several ways you can reduce the risks of your child being exposed to harmful or inappropriate content for their age.

Note: There is no way to completely mitigate all risks of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content or people on YouTube.



1. Enable 'Restricted Mode' on Web Browsers.

- › Access [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- › Sign into your YouTube/Google account.
- › Click the 'Settings' button in the left sidebar
- › Click the drop-down menu at the bottom of the page that reads: "Restricted Mode: Off."
- › Select "On" to lock Restricted Mode on this browser. Click 'Save.'

Note: This process needs to be enacted on/across all other browsers where YouTube is accessed (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari etc.).

It's also important to note that this feature can be switched back to 'off' by other users/family members so it's important to regularly check and discuss with your child how *Restricted Mode* is helping them stay safe online.



3. SETTING UP A FAMILY ACCOUNT

Set up a family account can allow you to supervise younger children when using YouTube. Setting up a shared Google account will allow you to:

- Review the history of what has been searched and viewed on the account (you can do this from your device).
- Allows you to create channels and playlists where you can add videos that you have already reviewed yourself and feel are appropriate for your children to watch.
- If your child uploads a video, you will also be able to keep track of the content they are sharing and manage its visibility.

As your children mature, they will probably ask you to create their own accounts (or even create one themselves without telling you).

To create a Google Account, you will need a Gmail email address. Log into you Gmail account via gmail.com - click **Create an account** and follow the account creation prompts.

Once you have created your Gmail account you can log into YouTube and start creating Channels and Playlists. Any videos viewed on the account will appear in the **History** tab in YouTube.



4. CREATE YOUR OWN YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

One way to help your child who enjoys watching their favourite YouTube clips [safely] is to **create playlists** of YouTube videos that you have previewed and deem suitable for your child.

- **Create a new playlist** > View video > Click Save > + Create New Playlist > Choose a Name > Make Privacy Level 'Private'.
- **Add to existing playlist** > View Video > Click Save > Select the Name of the playlist you wish to add this video to.
- **To find your playlists** > Select your profile > Navigate to Channels > Select the PLAYLISTS Tab.

Warning: As YouTube is a User Generated platform all content shared to the platform relies on the creator/user to tag, flag and even enable age restrictions for what uploading the content.

Whilst YouTube will attempt to filter for inappropriate or harmful content it will not flag mature content therefore it's important to take additional steps to protect your young viewers whilst using YouTube Playlists including



4. TURN OFF AUTOPLAY

YouTube and YouTubers make much of their income from the number of views. This is because at the start of a YouTube video you will view an advertisement (unless you are a premium/paid subscriber). It also hopes that you stay on the platform for as long as you can (to see more advertisements) so naturally it will feed you videos one after the other.

Every time you refresh your browser, YouTube will activate 'AutoPlay'. This means when one video finishes it will start playing another video. YouTube will use your viewing history to determine what videos it will AutoPlay next.

Turning off AutoPlay will ensure that you are in control over what you view next therefore reducing the risk of an inappropriate or harmful video automatically playing.

- **To turn off AutoPlay** > Look for the AutoPlay Play Button Slider located next to the settings cog or CC (closed captions) button in the of the video window > Slide to OFF.

Note you cannot turn off AutoPlay for 'Live Now' videos.



WHAT ABOUT YOUTUBE KIDS ?

For stricter controls on smart devices a popular alternative to YouTube is YouTube Kids app for iOS and Android phones and tablets.

YouTube Kids has been designed to a child-friendly interface that is simple to navigate and provides parents/careers with confidence that the channels and video material is appropriate for junior subscribers.

There are features within the app that allow supervising parents/careers with the ability to adjust age levels to filter appropriately pitched content to different age groups.

Warning: Content that appears on YouTube Kids comes directly from YouTube itself. YouTube relies on artificial intelligence to separate mature material (12+) from the child content and sends the child-friendly material to YouTube Kids. Users have reported inappropriate content appearing within YouTube Kids that has seemingly been undetected by YouTube's filters.



WHILST USING YOUTUBE

Start the chat with the conversation cues



What do you love about YouTube?

Are you subscribed to any channels?

Do you have a favourite YouTuber?

Have you every thought about making, creating and uploading your own videos to YouTube?

What is something you think I should know about YouTube?

Have you witnessed anything inappropriate on YouTube before?

If you saw something that made you feel uncomfortable what could you do?

How do you feel when you see unkind or mean comments in YouTube videos?