

Consent is...

- **Informed:** all parties demonstrate a clear and mutual understanding of exactly what they are consenting to.
 - This means that all parties are aware of things like STI and/or pregnancy risks, whether or not the other person/people are in a relationship, and whether whatever intimacy is taking place is a one night stand or something that might develop into a relationship.
 - This also means that everyone involved is awake and sober enough to know and understand the “who, what, where, when, and why” of what’s happening.
 - If you are not sure if someone is sober or awake enough to give consent, don’t have sex with them.
 - If you think you are too drunk or tired to judge whether your partner is consenting, wait ‘till you’re more self aware.
 - *You are still responsible for your actions when you’re drunk.*
- **Freely and actively given:** there is no coercion, force, threats, intimidation, or pressure.
 - This doesn't just apply to threats of physical violence. If you repeatedly ask someone to do something until they give in, threaten to out them if they refuse, or accuse them of not really caring about you if they don't agree to your requests, any “yes” you might get is *not* freely and actively given.
 - Sometimes power dynamics such as age or role within an organization (ie supervisor, RA, TA, or team captain) , and systemic inequalities caused (ie race, class, sexual orientation, ability, trans status, size, etc.) can complicate consent within the context of an encounter or relationship.
 - If you have more institutional or organizational power than someone you’re intimate with, it helps to talk about it to make sure they still feel comfortable setting boundaries.
- **Mutually understandable:** expressed in words or actions that indicate a clear willingness to participate in each sexual act. Silence does not equal consent.
 - “Hooking up” or “having sex” can mean different things to different people. Make sure you’re both on the same page.
 - If you’re no longer sure that your partner is consenting, check in with them.
 - If your partner(s) start pushing away, tensing up, going limp, won’t look you in the eye, or seem to be “just lying there,” stop.
- **Specific to a given situation:** consent is not indefinite. Even in the context of a current or previous intimate relationship, each party must consent to each instance of sexual contact each time.
 - Consenting to one sexual activity does not mean consenting to all activities.

No does *not* mean yes.

Maybe does not mean yes. Silence does not mean yes.

Yes means yes.

Saying “yes” is meaningful only if you feel equally able to say “no.”

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Check-ins can sound like...

How does this feel? Are you still liking this? Are you comfortable? Is there anything you need or want right now? You seem quiet: are you okay? Anything I should stop doing or do that I’m not doing?

¹ Bulletpoints from Oberlin College Sexual Misconduct Policy (explanations added)

² Textboxes adapted from <http://www.scarleteen.com/>