

# Who Are You Online?



**\* DID YOU KNOW ...**

Half of kids age 11-18 say they sometimes feel like a different person online than off.

## Word Search

```

r r e r i o f n e r t
e f e r i o n s s r n
e s o r e n f n s i e
e e a s r o f n s s s
a s a r t t t e o k e
n t k r n e n p c y r
r s a o y s r s l e p
r e a i o t s s l i e
e p e r s o n a t c r
n e a i a t r a c e e
e t a c o r p i c e r
    
```

represent      persona      foster      reciprocate      risky

**\* WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What are the benefits and problems with being anonymous or less inhibited online?

## 1. Family Activity

Dylan wasn't sure what to do. He and his friend Brett had always played the same position, and his coach usually alternated between playing them. But lately, Dylan had been getting way more playing time. Dylan knew Brett was annoyed, but it wasn't his fault he was getting played more -- and Brett hadn't actually said anything to Dylan. Then, right after a game in which Dylan missed a pass, he saw that Brett tweeted, "The fact that ppl can't tell the difference between ppl who can play and ppl who can't even catch the ball." Dylan knew the tweet was about him, but of course there was no way to prove it, since Brett hadn't actually put his name or handle in the tweet. To make matters worse, five other people from their team had already favorited Brett's tweet. He wondered, did everyone else feel this way too? Should he respond with a similarly vague tweet or just let it go?

**\* DO YOU REMEMBER ...**  
What responsibilities you have to yourself and others to "stay real" online, even when you exaggerate or act differently?

## 2. Think Out Loud!

- What seems realistic (or unrealistic) about this story? Do you ever hear about this kind of thing happening?
- If you were Dylan, what would you do when you saw the tweet?
- Why would the other kids on the team favorite the tweet?
- Why do you think Brett decided to send that tweet instead of simply saying something to Brett?

## 3. Common Sense Says ...

Websites that are supposedly anonymous don't always stay anonymous. Comments can often be tracked back to an IP address or other identifying information. Don't assume that you can hide behind anonymity to say something cruel or hurtful about another person without being held accountable ... anonymity online isn't guaranteed.

