



Fact sheet

YouTube (For parents)

Follow us:



@ThinkUKnow_Aus



facebook.com/ThinkUKnowAustralia

What is YouTube?

YouTube is a free, user-generated video sharing website that allows users to watch, create and upload their own videos to share with others. YouTube has over a billion users. Anyone is able access the videos on the service online however users must create an account to upload and share their own content. The site is moderated by users who can flag inappropriate content. YouTube reviews the content and if it violates their community guidelines the content is removed, or age restrictions are put in place.

How are young people using YouTube?

Young people use YouTube to watch, create and upload videos. It is used to socialise, interact, learn, share and watch content. Popular types of videos include music, pranks, parodies, and 'how to videos'. YouTube is the second largest search engine in the world and can be used as the starting point for research or learning about a particular topic.

What are the age restrictions for YouTube?

Users are required to be 13-years-old to use the site. Users under 13-years-old are recommended to use YouTube Kids. Age restrictions are difficult for YouTube to monitor as age is only verified when users create an account, however it is not necessary to have an account to use the service. YouTube restricts videos it has deemed inappropriate for people under 18-years-old by requiring users to sign in to an age verified account before they are able to access restricted content.

Is it free?

It is free to view and upload videos on YouTube but there is a paid version of the service, known as YouTube Red. YouTube Red gives subscribers access to ad free viewing as well as enabling them to watch television shows and movies. This service is available in America and will soon be expanded to other countries. You must be 18 years or older to use this service and you also need a Google account with a valid payment method.

What does subscribing to someone's YouTube channel mean?

Subscribing to a channel means that a user is interested in the videos that another user is posting and would like to be notified when new videos are uploaded to the channels they follow. This is very similar to 'friending' or 'following' on other types of social media. A channel can be run by an individual, organisation or business and can consist of any type of video content.

What is the difference between a YouTube account, username and channel?

When a YouTube account is created, users are able log into YouTube and get a username and a channel (a username is often the same as a channel name). A username is used to comment on videos and a channel is used to upload video content. There can be multiple channels under a single YouTube account.

What are some of the potential issues with YouTube?

YouTube consists of user-generated content. Videos found on the site don't always have age appropriate classifications. The site relies on users to monitor and report inappropriate content. Users do not need to create an account to use the site so it is difficult to manage or regulate underage users. YouTube users may be exposed to bullying and harassment on the site however there are steps people can take to minimise this risk.

What are the recommended settings on YouTube?

As YouTube users do not have to have a personally identifiable account to use the site, the privacy settings are somewhat limited.

Privacy settings can be created on user accounts and the videos that are uploaded. Videos have three setting options; public, private or unlisted. It is recommended that young people set their videos to private or unlisted.

