

Online pornography

Lesson 1



What is online pornography?

Before the lesson, ensure your learners understand:

- Sex, sexuality and sexual health
- Different types of relationships, including romantic relationships
- What age ratings are and why certain films, games, apps and other content are given these age ratings (See BBFC and PEGI for more information)

Key vocabulary:

Online pornography, porn, sex, relationship, experience, positive, negative, age rating

Resources:

- Online Pornography slides
- Printed copies of Appendix 1 (optional)

Lesson Outline:

In this lesson, learners will be introduced to the term 'online pornography'. They will understand that other people's experiences and understanding of online pornography might be different. Learners will explore and evaluate some of the common assumptions and misconceptions about online pornography, so they understand that online pornography is not a true or accurate representation of a healthy sexual relationship in the real world.

Lesson Objective:

To have a clear understanding of what online pornography is and how it is different from healthy relationships in the real world.

Learning Outcomes:

Learners will know...

- how to define online pornography
- other people's understanding and experiences of online pornography may be different
- the common assumptions about online pornography and the truths behind them

➤ Starter	Defining online pornography
➤ Film and Discussion	Online Pornography – Film 1
➤ Main Activity	The truth about online pornography
➤ Plenary	Understanding online pornography
➤ Challenge	Age rating investigator



Starter:

Defining online pornography (10 minutes)



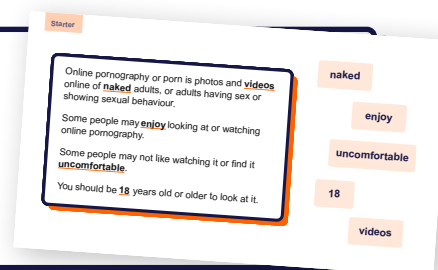
Explain to learners that you are going to be looking at a topic that some people may find difficult to talk about or think about. Explain that it can be helpful to talk about it to understand it better and so you can make sensible choices. The topic is 'online pornography', sometimes just known as 'porn'.

Display **slide 4**. Explain that some people may have heard of it before, and some may not have – it is okay either way. It is important that we all start with a clear definition of what it is.

Display **slide 5**. Read through the definition with learners. As you come to each gap in the sentences, ask learners to pick the correct word from the list on the side. Click to reveal the correct word at each gap.

Display **slide 6**. Repeat the exercise. Once you have completed all the gaps, read the definition aloud in full, from start to finish.

Possible adaptation: Print the definition slides for your learners so that they can read through the definition and fill in the gaps themselves, either independently or in pairs.



Display **slide 7**. Explain to learners that watching pornography is not something that everyone does and that you definitely don't have to watch it. For some people, watching online pornography is not a positive experience or the right choice for them – it can make them feel worried, confused or upset. Read through the quotes on the slide.

Explain that online pornography has an age rating of 18+. This is because someone under the age of 18 may not be ready to see this kind of content and may not have the knowledge or experience to understand it properly. For example, some adult content like this can be shocking or even violent. Emphasise that everyone's opinion, experience and understanding of online pornography is probably different, and that's okay.



Film and Discussion:

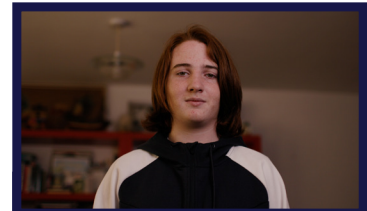
Online Pornography – Film 1 (20 minutes)



(A script for this film can be found at the end of this lesson plan in **Appendix 1**)

1. Play Film 1 up until the pause point.
2. Work through the part one discussion questions below.
3. Play the outcome of Film 1.
4. Work through the part two discussion questions below.
5. Further advice and guidance has been provided for each question.

Meet the Character



Dion is 14 and loves online games. He's quiet and sensitive.



Discussion (part one):

1. What did Tyler tell Dion about online pornography?

He said that everyone watches it. That it was normal to watch it. He told Dion he could learn everything he needed to know from watching porn. He also said it was the best way to learn how to treat a girlfriend.

2. Do you think that these are true?

Not everyone watches pornography. It's normal to be curious but it's also completely normal to not be interested in watching it too. It is not the best way to learn about sex and relationships, or how to treat a girlfriend or boyfriend as it is not real. The people who appear in pornography are actors and have been paid to do certain things which do not reflect what happens in real life. Tyler has shared things about pornography that aren't true and it's unfair to tell Dion to watch something he may not be ready to understand.

3. At the time, why did Dion think it would be a good idea to watch online pornography?

Dion thought that online pornography would prepare him for a relationship.

4. Why do you think Dion was shocked by what he saw?

Online pornography has an age rating of 18+ for a reason. Some adult content can be shocking and violent, which makes it unsuitable for anyone under 18. Seeing these images can be upsetting, confusing or even frightening for a young person to watch.



Online
Pornography



5. What do you think about Tyler telling Dion about pornography?

Take learners' responses.

6. What should Dion do next?

He has been upset by something he saw online, so the best thing to do in that situation is to tell or show an adult he knows and trusts. Getting help is the first step to making things better.



Discussion (part two):

1. Why did Dion find it difficult to tell his mum?

Some young people might find it difficult to talk to a parent or carer about seeing pornography online as they may feel embarrassed. Remember that there are other trusted adults that you can talk to, such as a teacher, group leader, social worker, or another relative.

2. What things did Dion's mum tell him about online pornography?

Curiosity is a normal part of growing up, but there are better and more appropriate ways of learning about sex and relationships than watching pornography.

3. Was telling his mum a good idea?

Yes, because now he feels relieved and knows he can talk to her about this. Keeping his worries to himself could make him feel sad and worried, so getting help and telling someone was the best thing to do.

4. How does Dion feel about online pornography now?

He knows that watching pornography was not the best way to learn about sex or relationships because pornography is not real. He knows the people are actors and they are not having sex because they like each other, but because they are paid to do it. He knows it might exaggerate some things or show things that don't normally happen in real life. He is still curious, but he knows he doesn't want to watch it.



Main Activity:

The truth about online pornography (15 minutes)



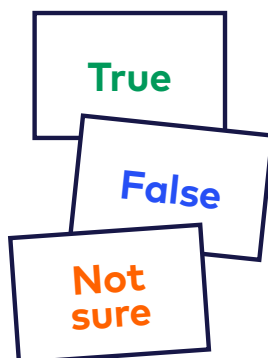
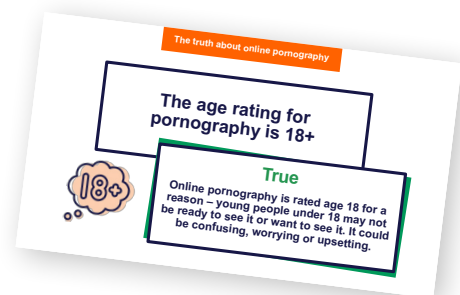
Display **slide 9**. Explain to learners that they are going to be shown a series of statements about online pornography, and that they are going to vote on whether each statement is true or false.

Display **slide 10**. Read aloud to learners the first 'True or False' statement.

Ask learners to vote on whether they think the statement is true or false using hands up or with traffic light cards. If learners feel comfortable doing so, ask them to explain their choice.

Then click to reveal the answer and accompanying explanation.

Repeat this process for all the 'True or False' statements.



Possible adaptation:

- Place 'True' and 'False' cards at different ends of the room and ask learners to move to that point to give their answer.
- Provide learners with a 'Not Sure' option (e.g., an orange traffic light, a 'NOT SURE' card, etc.).
- Convert the activity into a card sort task, where learners place the statements under 'True' or 'False' headers.





Plenary:

Understanding online pornography

(5 minutes)

Display **slide 19**. Give learners two sticky notes. On one sticky note, learners should write one thing that they now understand better about online pornography. On the other sticky note, learners can write a question that they still have (if they have one) about online pornography that they would like answered. Explain to learners that they do not need to write their names on these. Ask learners to hand in their sticky notes to you.

Use the sticky notes to emphasise what your learners now understand about online pornography by expressing these to the class as a summary. If you received any questions, you can address these now or at a later time.

Possible adaptation:

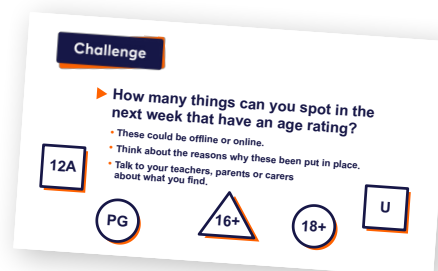
- Ask learners to say out loud something about online pornography they now understand and something they are still unsure about.
- Use the key words for learners to point to if they are still unsure about the meaning of one or more of them.



Challenge:

Age rating investigator

Display **slide 20**. Challenge learners to look out for things which have an age rating over the coming week. These could be offline or online. Ask them to think about the reasons why the age ratings have been put in place. Encourage learners to talk to their teachers, parents or carers about what they find and questions they might have.



Possible extensions:

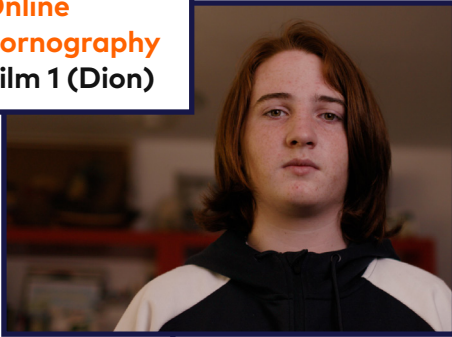
- In pairs, learners could see how much they remember about the truths about online pornography by saying them aloud to each other.
- Ask learners to summarise why they think online pornography has an age rating of 18+.



Appendix 1: Online Pornography – Film Script 1



Online Pornography Film 1 (Dion)



My cousin Tyler was over at our house. He's older than me. I'd never heard of the word porn until I heard him mention it. He said that everyone watches it. That it was normal to watch it. He told me that if I wanted to learn about sex, I could learn everything I need to know from watching porn. He also said it was the best way to learn how to treat a girlfriend. Which I thought would be helpful because even though I don't have a girlfriend, I thought it was better to be prepared... know what it's all about, what to do and what to expect. He told me how to find it, so, I decided to have a look. But what I saw was not what I expected at all. I didn't understand what was going on and, to be honest, I didn't like it.

What happened next...

Mum knew that something was worrying me. She kept asking if I was okay but I was too embarrassed to tell her what had happened. She told me that she could only help me if I told her. Even though I was really embarrassed and scared that I would get into trouble, I told her what I had done. What I had seen. That I was confused. I was pleased that I told mum because she explained things to me, properly. She said that Tyler was wrong and that watching porn was not the best way to learn about sex or relationships because porn is not real. The people I had seen were actors and not having sex because they like each other, but because they are paid to do it. And that means that they will have been told to do certain things or might exaggerate something that would not happen in real life. Even though I am still curious, I know I'm not ready to look at it.

