



Snapchat is a photo and video sharing messaging app.
You must be aged 13 or over to use Snapchat

01

Photo & Video Sharing

Photos ('Snaps') and videos can be sent privately between users, or can be posted to a user's story, where they can be viewed for 24 hours. Photos and videos shared privately on Snapchat 'expire' after viewing. Images can be screenshotted, and users receive a notification that this has happened.

02

Messaging

Users can privately message each other using Snapchat's chat function. These expire after viewing, unless the user chooses to save them. Chat messages can be screenshotted, and users receive a notification that this has happened.

03

Snap Map

The Snap Map feature shows your friends your exact location. This function can be turned on for all, off completely (ghost mode), or viewable to select friends only.

04

Our Story

Users can upload snaps to 'Our Story', a shared community collection of location or event based photos and videos. User locations can be seen when they share a snap in Our Story, regardless of location settings. Users can report inappropriate content in Our Story.

05

Filters

Filters are design overlays that you add on top of your Snaps and are a popular feature of Snapchat. Filters enable you to display your location, time, speed, or temperature, add colour tones to your photos or change your face. Users can add their own filters and share them via the Lens Explorer.

06

Screenshots

Snapchat's expiring images feature gives some users a false sense of privacy when sending compromising images. However, images & messages can be screenshotted, with users receiving a notification that this has happened.

07

Snapstreaks

When 2 users send snaps back and forth to each other for over 3 consecutive days, they build a 'Snapstreak'. If a user doesn't send a snap within 24 hours, the Snapstreak is broken and resets. Snapchat rewards users who achieve high Snapstreaks, further encouraging daily use of the app.

08

Concerns

Skewed body image ('perfect' selfies, filters). Addiction (reinforced by features such as Snapstreaks). Sexting (sending compromising images and messages, often with the belief they will disappear).



Getting Help:

If social media has left you feeling depressed and anxious, or you have experienced any form of cyberbullying, you can talk to someone at ChildLine, a free confidential 24/7 helpline for children and young people. You can call 0800 1111 or chat online at www.childline.org.uk

(ChildLine is run by the NSPCC.)

