

THE TALK DECK

Full Card Deck

14 scenario cards • 3 tiers • One full semester
Version 1.0 September 2026

LEVEL 1 — Warm-Up / Bystander

Card 1: The Group Chat

FRONT (read aloud):

Jasmin notices that her friend Dev hasn't been added back to the group chat since he disagreed with someone last week. Nobody talks about it — Dev just isn't there anymore.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What are some reasons someone might get quietly left out like this?
2. What could Jasmin do if she noticed this happening?
3. Why might people go along with something like this without really deciding to?

Card 2: “That's Not a Guy Thing”

FRONT (read aloud):

Jayden brings his sketchbook to lunch, and a few guys start calling him “the art kid” in a mocking tone. He laughs it off, but stops bringing it after that.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What message does Jayden receive from the reaction, even if no one directly told him to stop?
2. What's the difference between teasing a friend and pressuring them to change?
3. What could a bystander say in this moment that isn't a big confrontation?

Card 3: The Joke That Kept Going

FRONT (read aloud):

A joke about Sam's haircut gets a laugh at first. Ten minutes later, people are still bringing it up, and Sam has stopped smiling.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. How can you tell when a joke has shifted from fun to something else?
2. What makes it hard to be the one who says “okay, that's enough”?
3. What are a few different ways someone could step in without making it a bigger deal?

Card 4: “Walk It Off”

FRONT (read aloud):

During gym class, Tariq tweaks his ankle. A teammate tells him to “walk it off” and not be “soft” in front of everyone.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. Where do ideas like “toughness means ignoring pain” come from?
2. What would change if Tariq's teammate had said something different?
3. Is there a cost to always appearing tough? What might that cost be?

LEVEL 3 — Interpersonal Balance

Card 5: The Prank

FRONT (read aloud):

A group wants Rachel to help set up an embarrassing prank on a kid who “won’t mind.” Rachel isn’t sure the kid would actually be okay with it, but everyone else already agreed.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What’s the difference between a prank everyone actually enjoys and one that just gets excused as harmless?
2. What makes it hard to be the one person who says “wait, maybe not”?
3. What could Rachel do here that doesn’t mean either going along or making a big scene?

Card 6: Just Talking

FRONT (read aloud):

A rumor about Priya’s relationship is spreading in the friend group. Someone says, “we’re not spreading it; we’re just talking about it.”

BACK (discussion questions):

1. Is there a real difference between “spreading a rumor” and “just talking”? Why or why not?
2. What usually happens to someone once a rumor about them starts moving through a group?
3. What could someone say to interrupt this conversation without it becoming a whole confrontation?

Card 7: Iced Out for Standing Up

FRONT (read aloud):

After Noah tells a group to back off from bullying a classmate, some of his friends stop inviting him to things. No one explains why.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. Why might a group respond to someone “doing the right thing” by pushing them out?
2. Why might people act differently when they’re in a group than they would on their own?
3. What would you want a friend to do if this happened to you?

Card 8: “I Just Care About You”

FRONT (read aloud):

Devon tells his partner he'd prefer that she doesn't hang out with her other friends as much — he says it's because he cares about her and wants her focused on their relationship.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What's the difference between genuine care and control? How can you tell them apart in the moment?
2. Why might “caring” language make controlling behavior harder to name or push back on?
3. If a friend described this situation to you, what would you want to ask them?

Card 9: Clap Back Harder

FRONT (read aloud):

An online argument is heating up, and Malik's friends are hyping him up to “go off” on the other person with a harsher reply than he'd planned.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What's the appeal of escalating in front of an audience, even online?
2. What's a way to de-escalate a conflict like this without looking like you're backing down?
3. What role does the audience (the group watching) play in how this plays out?

Card 10: Not My Business?

FRONT (read aloud):

At a party, Ken notices his friend's date seems uncomfortable and is trying to leave the conversation, but his friend keeps pulling her back in. Ken isn't sure if he should say anything.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What makes moments like this hard to read — and hard to act on?
2. What are some low-key ways someone could check in without making it a confrontation?
3. What might happen if nobody says anything?

LEVEL 5 — Severe / Abuse-Adjacent

Card 11: Prove It

FRONT (read aloud):

Jordan tells his partner that if she really loved him, she'd stop hanging out with her friends and spend all her free time with him instead.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What is being framed as “proof of love” here — and is that a reasonable ask?
2. What would you say to a friend who described their relationship this way?
3. What's the difference between wanting closeness and demanding control?

Card 12: Say Something?

FRONT (read aloud):

A friend group has noticed that Chris has been telling his girlfriend what to wear and getting angry when she talks to other guys. They've talked about it privately, but no one has said anything to Chris directly.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What makes it hard for a friend group to bring something like this up directly?
2. What's a way someone could raise a concern without it turning into a confrontation or an accusation?
3. What are some signs that a situation has gone beyond what a friend group can handle on their own?

Card 13: “I'm Just Messing Around”

FRONT (read aloud):

Aiden tells a friend, half-joking, that he “knows where he lives” after a small disagreement. When his friend looks uncomfortable, Aiden says he's obviously just kidding.

BACK (discussion questions):

1. Why might a comment like this feel different depending on who says it and how?
2. What's the effect of adding “I'm just kidding” after something like this?
3. If you were the friend hearing this, what might you do?

Card 14: Don't Snitch

FRONT (read aloud):

Kim saw her friend grab his girlfriend's arm hard enough to leave a mark during an argument. Her friend later tells Kim not to make a big deal out of it — “it's not your business.”

BACK (discussion questions):

1. What's the difference between “not your business” and “not something you're allowed to care about”?
2. What are the different options Kim has here, beyond staying silent or immediately confronting his friend?
3. When is a trusted adult the right next step in a situation like this?