

8. I want to wait until I'm married.

- ✓ I'm in love and I think I'm old enough, but I want to wait until I'm married.
- ✓ It is against my religion to have sex outside of marriage.

9. It's my decision to wait!

- ✓ I am old enough to make my own decisions.
- ✓ Even though lots of teens say they're having sex, I don't have to do it until I'm ready.
- ✓ Even if my boyfriend or girlfriend wants to have sex, I can still say no.

10. Everyone is not doing it.

- ✓ I have the right to say no and do what's best for me!
- ✓ More than half of all teens aged 15 to 17 have not had sex.
- ✓ I know I'm not the only one deciding to wait.
- ✓ I'm proud of my decision.



Why are many young people waiting to have sex? Because they've decided that waiting offers benefits, including freedom from worry about STIs and pregnancy. Saying "no" to sex can mean saying "yes" to you.

Sex Ten Best Reasons to Wait



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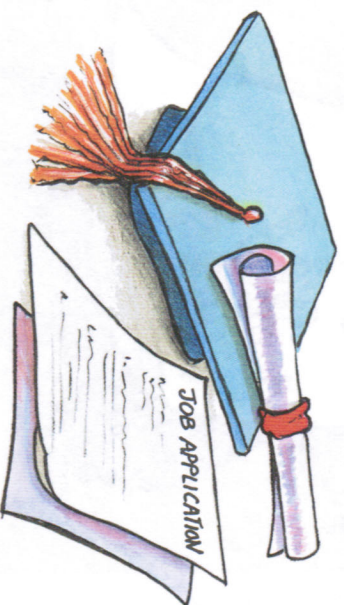
Today, lots of young people are waiting to have sex – for lots of different reasons! They are calling the shots on their own sexuality and they know how to take care of themselves. Here are the top ten reasons young people are deciding to wait.

1. I'm not ready – yet.

- ✓ I know what's right for me, and I'm not ready for sex.
- ✓ I've heard too many kids say they wish they hadn't done it – afterwards.

2. I have plans for my future.

- ✓ I want to keep my options open.
- ✓ I would like to get a good job or go to college.
- ✓ The consequences of having sex too soon – an unplanned pregnancy, emotional stress or a sexually transmitted infection – could get in the way of my plans.



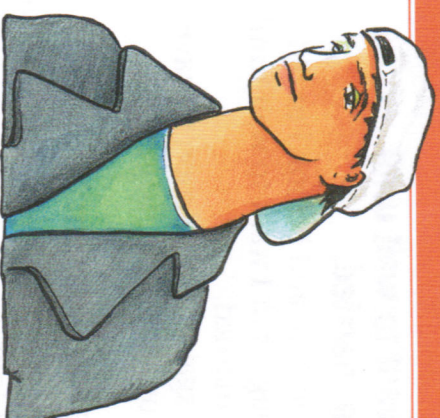
3. I'm not ready to have a baby.

- ✓ I know that if we have sex, we could have a baby – even if we use birth control.
- ✓ I'm not ready to raise a kid.
- ✓ Getting pregnant (or my partner getting pregnant) scares me too much to risk it.
- ✓ I know not having sex (abstinence) is the only guaranteed method of birth control.



4. My relationship isn't ready.

- ✓ If we start having sex, things will change.
- ✓ I don't want sex to become the focus of what we do. I still want to go to the movies and hang out with friends.
- ✓ I know that having sex will not make someone love me or stay with me.



5. I'm protecting myself from STIs.

- ✓ I don't want chlamydia, herpes or any other sexually transmitted infection (STI or STD).
- ✓ My partner could be infected with an STI without knowing it.

6. I'm not willing to risk HIV.

- ✓ Many new cases of HIV are in people under 25. I could get infected now and not even know it.
- ✓ Even "safer sex" isn't completely safe.

7. I want to wait until I'm older.

- ✓ When I'm older, I'll be better able to deal with birth control and safer sex.
- ✓ I'll know more about myself and what I want.
- ✓ My parents would flip if they found out I was having sex now.