

# Methodology

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## Who do we identify as pedophiles?

To qualify a user as a pedophile, *Maldita.es* first collected data from all users who had commented on 50 videos of minors who appeared to be under 13 years old, and applied a methodology based on different user characteristics.

### These characteristics have been divided by color:



#### Green

We do not have enough data to assert that the person may be a pedophile.



#### Orange

Based on their comments, there is a high probability of being a pedophile, but we do not have sufficient information.



#### Red

There is no doubt that the person is a pedophile, as they are showing interest in exchanging, buying, gifting, obtaining, or selling child pornography videos — whether using coded language understood only by those with the same interests, or using explicit language.

The indicators we detect and categorise are as follows:

Color	Indicators
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile picture of Dragon Ball, manga, Mickey Mouse, children's drawings, teddy bears, dogs, etc.</li> <li>• Generic account with no profile picture or a black profile picture.</li> <li>• Generic username such as user696114616200.</li> <li>• Account with a lock (private).</li> <li>• Recently created account (late 2025–2026) with no profile picture or published content.</li> <li>• Account with a high number of followers but no published content.</li> </ul>
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows accounts such as "real schoolgirls" or other accounts featuring sexualised minors.</li> <li>• States in comments that they are of legal age.</li> <li>• Posts images or videos performing adult activities, such as drinking alcohol or driving.</li> <li>• Their biography states they engage in an adult activity.</li> <li>• Their description promotes a Telegram account, Zangi number, WhatsApp number, etc. (communication channels used to move the conversation to another platform, generally encrypted) or a "hormonal group."</li> <li>• Their profile picture, videos, or comments use stolen images of minors (from Pinterest, social media, etc.) without clarifying that these do not belong to them.</li> <li>• Has posted images or videos showing they are an adult, or their profile picture shows an adult person.</li> <li>• Requests contact with minors.</li> </ul>
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In comments, requests or offers "material" to exchange.</li> <li>• Comments words such as "exchange," "trade," "gift," "gift me," "selling," "I have a group," external links, usernames, or references to external platforms such as Telegram, Zangi, and Signal on videos featuring minors who have not requested anything.</li> <li>• In comments, uses pizza emojis, references</li> </ul>

	<p>to pizza, cheese pizza, or other terms to refer to child pornography (see the pedophile dictionary on TikTok).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their biography includes "CePuede," "exchange," or coded language.</li><li>• Leads to a private group or conversation and shows or requests child sexual abuse material.</li></ul>
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The more than 1,300 pedophiles identified by *Maldita.es* have used one or more of the above red-level expressions.

If you have any questions, you can write to [investigacion@maldita.es](mailto:investigacion@maldita.es).