



Everything you need to
know about Snap Chat

What is Snap Chat ?

Snapchat is a social network where users send 'Snaps' - short videos or photos to Snapchat friends. You can also send 'Chats', these are text messages. What makes Snapchat different to Facebook or Twitter is that Snaps and Chat have a lifespan of between 1 and 10 seconds, after that they disappear.

How to get an account

Snapchat works using an app, with [iOS \(iPhone\)](#) and [Android versions](#) available as free downloads.

Enter an email, password and select a user name to get started. The account will need to be verified (to check you aren't a robot) using a phone number or by selecting pictures. Choose your user name carefully as you cannot change it later.

Snapchat has a minimum age of 13 years old, and if you enter a date of birth under 13 can't set up an account.

How do I get contacts ?

To use Snapchat you need to add friends to the app's contact list. These can be contacts from your phone's address book, people you've found by searching for their user names (such as celebrities), users nearby and contacts made using Snapcode, a scannable barcode unique to each Snapchat user.

You can share a Snap or Chat with anyone from their friends list.

What is a Snap Chat streak ?

A number will pop up before the fire symbol to indicate how many consecutive days you've been snapping with someone. Hundred symbol – this means that you're on a 100-day snap streak with someone. The 100 emoji will pop up next to the fire when you've reached this level of Snapchat dedication

Taking your first snap

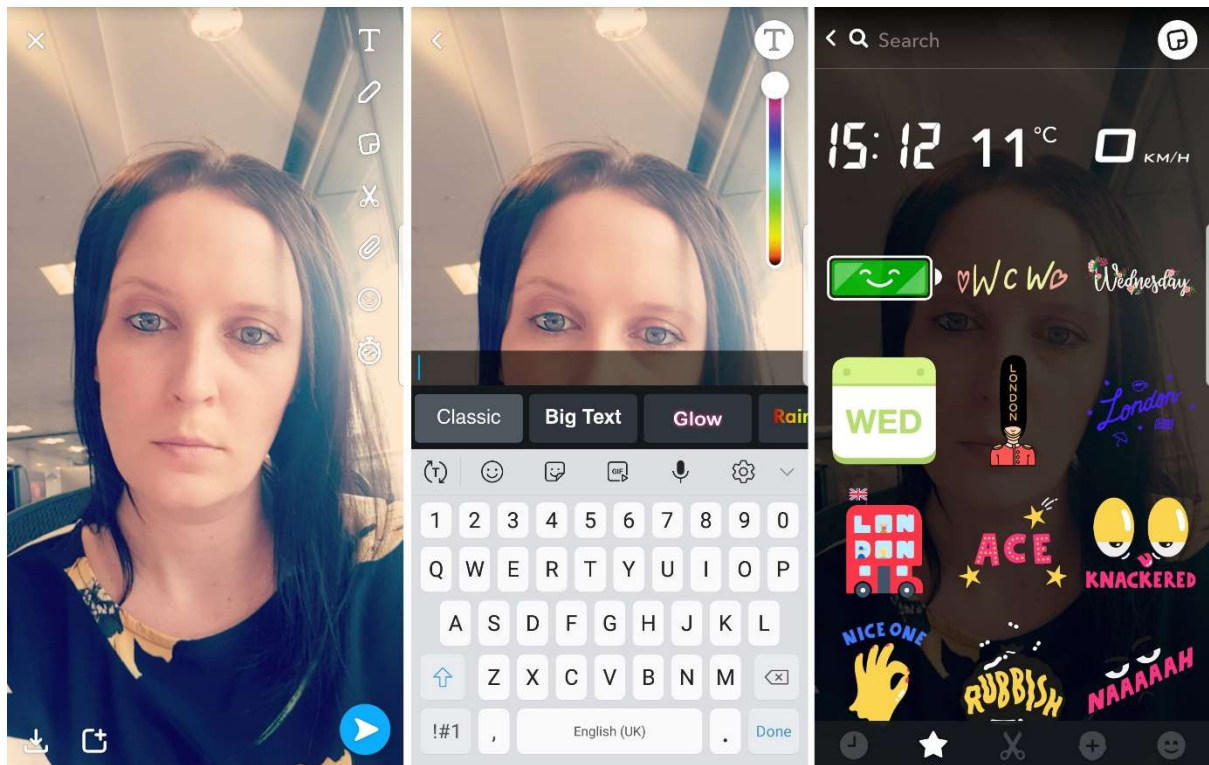
When you launch Snapchat you'll be presented with the view from your phone's front-facing camera. You could hit the big circle icon at the bottom of the screen to take a photo, or you could tap and hold to take a video. But that would be to ignore the great many Lenses and filters that make Snapchat so popular with the kids...

Adding 'Lenses', filters and effects to Snaps

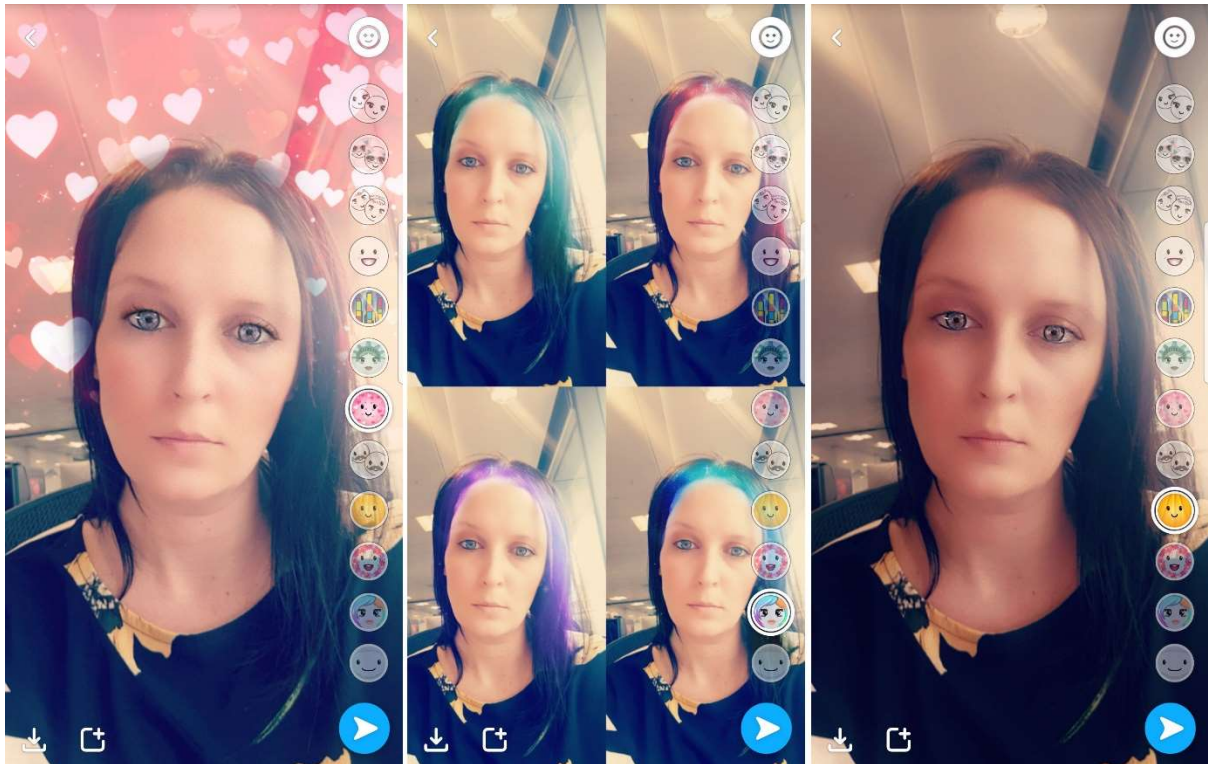
With your face in view, tap and hold on your face. You'll see a white grid appear, then some new circular **icons** will appear to the right of the shutter button. You can scroll through these 'Lenses' to add various filters and effects. Those on offer are regularly updated.



appear on the right edge of the screen. These let you add text, draw doodles and add stickers.

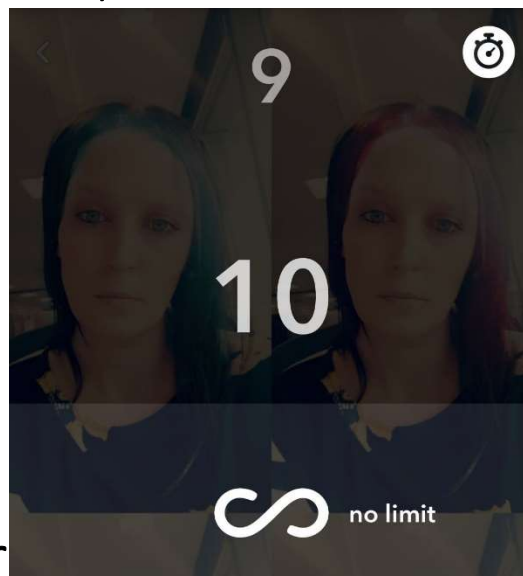


You'll also find an option for add a second filter, and these are different options to what you will have seen the first time around.



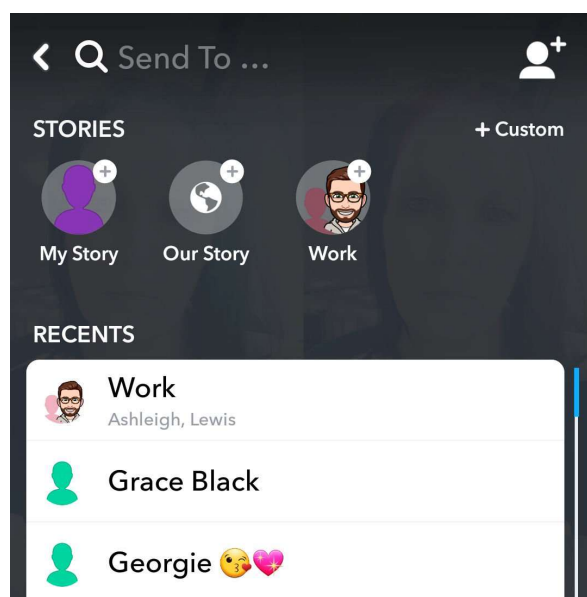
The bottom option lets you set a time limit for how long your friends will be able to view your Snap.

The beauty of Snapchat is that unless you specifically save or **screenshot** an image it will self-destruct after they've viewed it.



Sending your

Once you've taken a Snap you like, the idea is to share it with your friends. Tap the blue arrow icon to Send. Also at the bottom of the window are options to download the photo (so you can get an image that doesn't have all the icons at the edge) or add it to your Story.



Having hit the Send button you need to select a contact to send the Snap to. Pick a contact(s) from the list, or choose to add it to My Story, Our story or an existing group using the icons at the top. Now hit the blue send arrow again.

Making groups

You can create a group of sixteen friends and share a story with them all at once.

Open Snapchat and take a photo of whatever it is you want to share. Edit it any way you like and then tap the send button at the bottom right.

The 'Send To' screen now features a new section called 'Groups'. There's a 'Create Group' button there for you to create a group. Tap it and select the sixteen or less friends you want to include in the group. Once created, you can select the group and share your story with them.



Dangers of SnapChat

Snapchat is all about sharing photos and video, so like Facebook, children need to be careful what they take – and send - photos of.

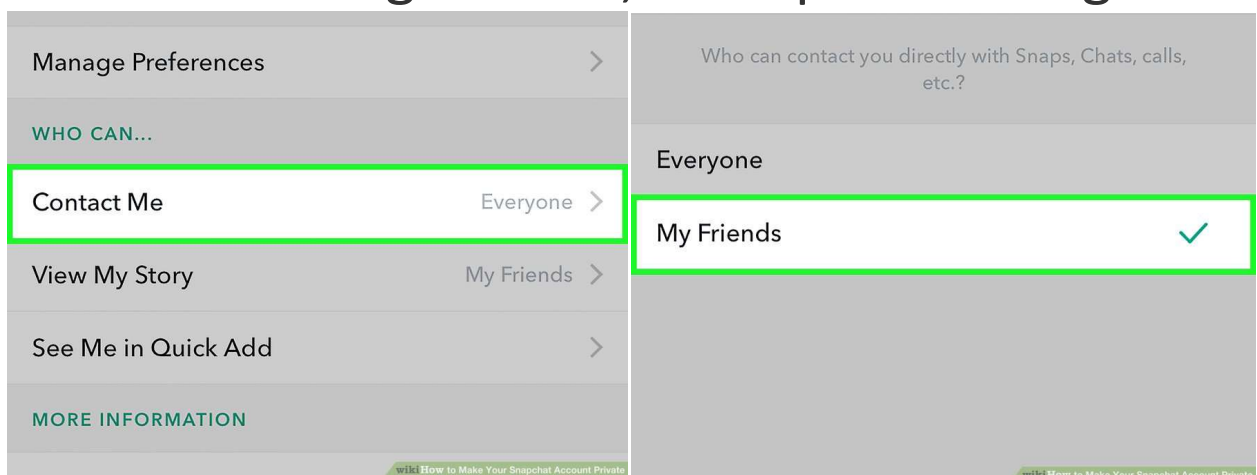
Because Snapchat photos and videos disappear within seconds, you might think there's less of a risk. Unfortunately many smartphones have a screenshot facility and there's nothing to stop the person reading it capturing an image of a Snap which will last forever and which can be shared online within seconds.

How to make your settings private

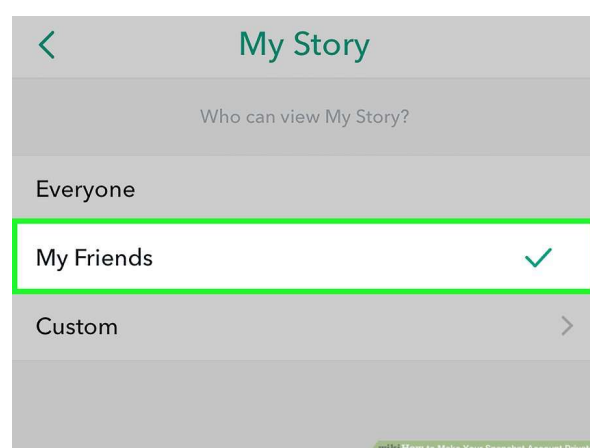
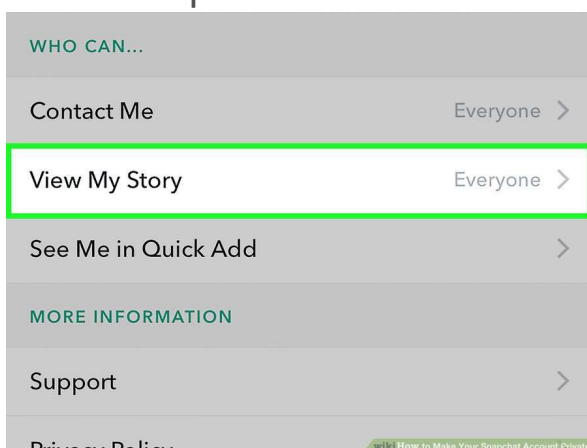
Swipe down on the camera screen. This will open your profile page.



Click on the cog button , this opens settings

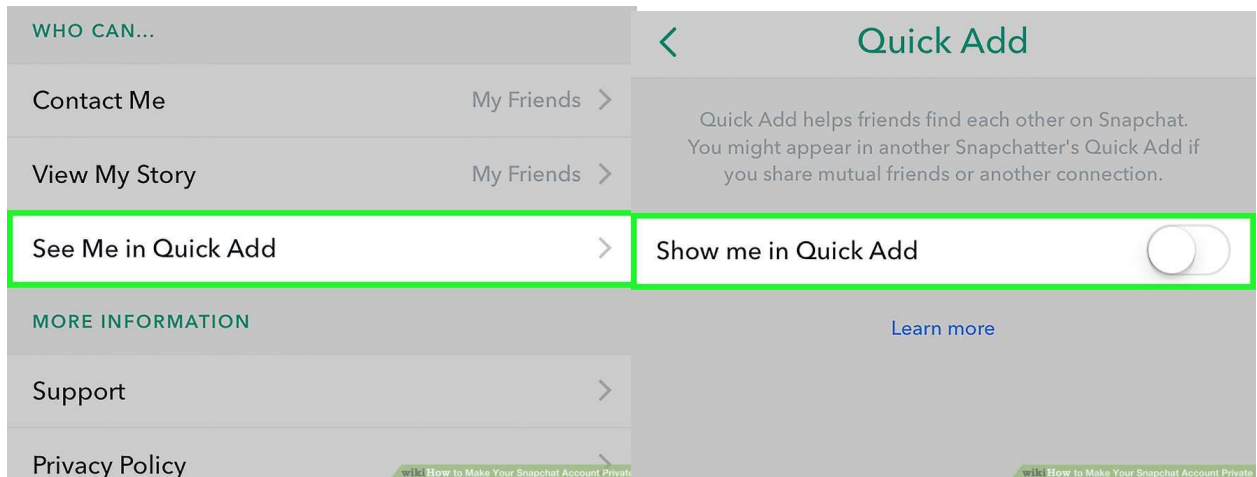


If someone you're not friends with sends you a snap, you'll get a notification. If you add them as a friend, you'll be able to see their snap.



Turn off Quick Add

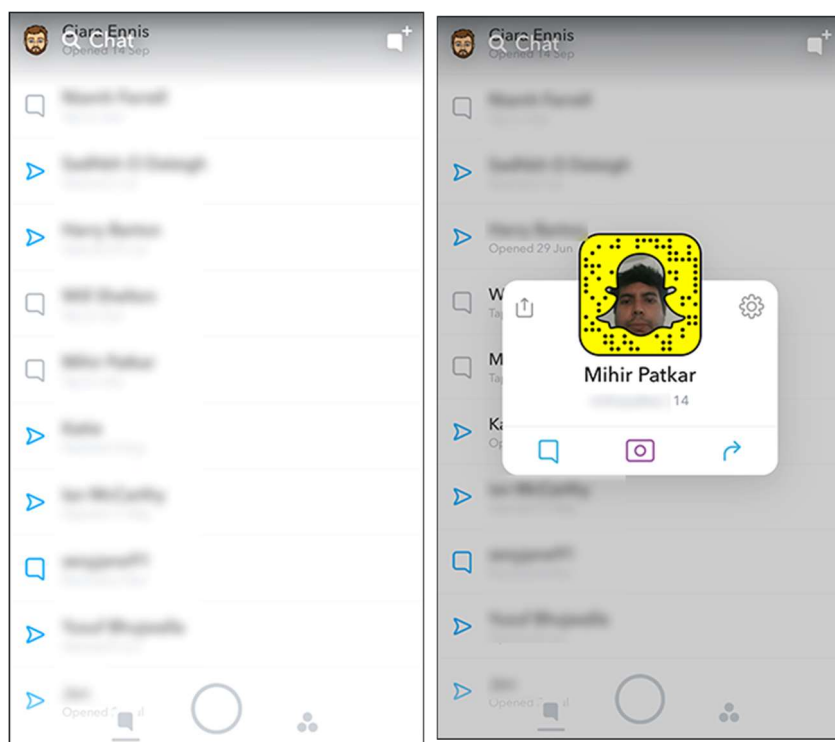
Next you need to change who can add you in quick add.



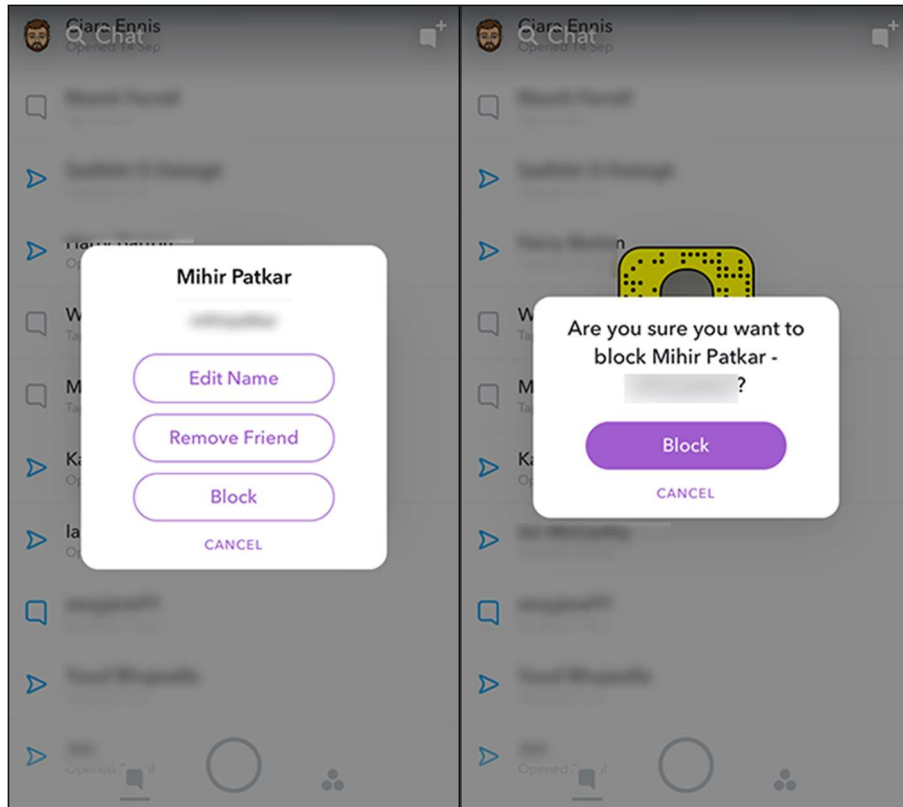
Turn off Location Services

You can share their location with friends. This could allow your child to connect with total strangers who happen to be in the vicinity.

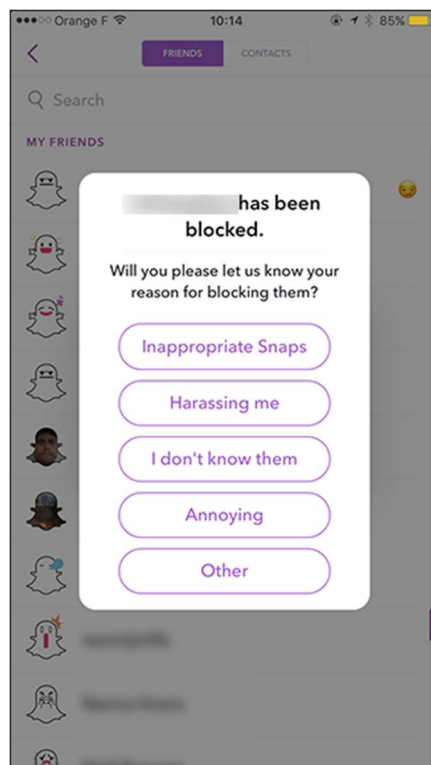
- Go to Settings - Who Can - See My Location and activate Ghost Mode.
- Go to the apps Settings menu, click Manage - Permissions. Look for Location and ensure it's disabled. You may need to go into your phone's general Settings menu to turn it off.



Next, tap the Gear icon and then tap Block.
Tap Block again.



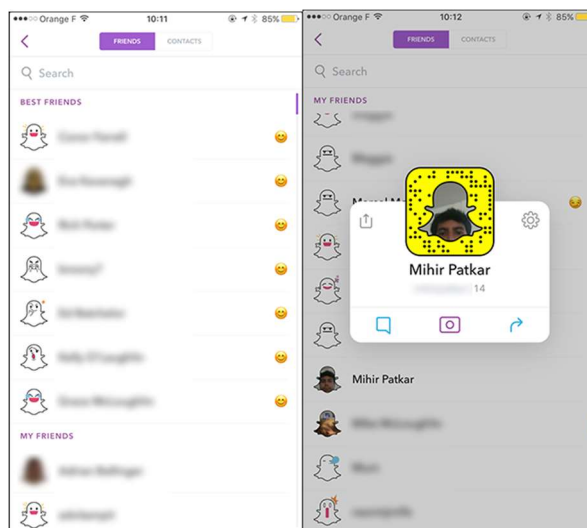
They are now blocked



If the person you want to block hasn't sent you a Snap recently, go to the Snap screen and swipe down.

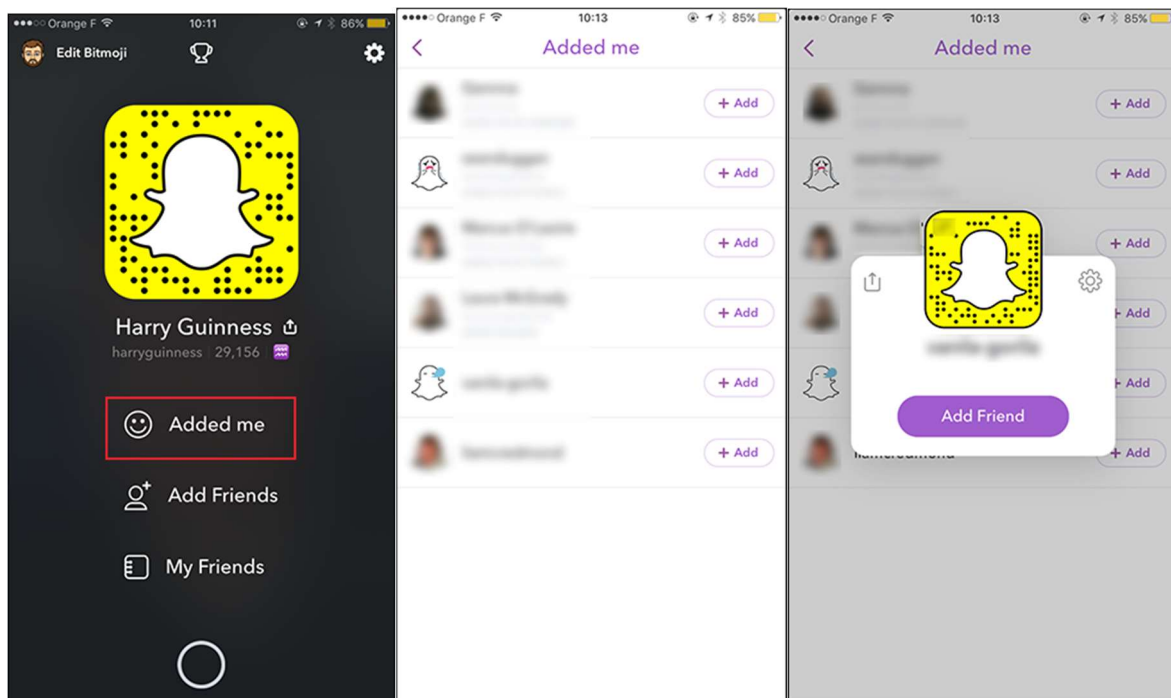


Tap My Friends and then long press on the friend you want to block.



Once again, tap the Gear icon followed by Block twice.

Finally, to block someone who's added you as a Friend but you haven't added back, go to the Snap screen and swipe down.



Tap the Gear icon and Block twice to remove them.