

What does your profile picture say about you?

Whether it's a photo of you on a night out or of you with your newborn baby, the image you choose to represent you on social networking sites says a lot about you.



Profile pictures on Facebook and similar sites are the visual projection to friends and family of who you are and what you are like. On Twitter, where people follow both friends and strangers, profile pictures are smaller and perhaps more significant. They are often the first and only visual introduction people have to each other. So what does your profile photo say about you?

According to communications consultant Terry Prone, there are 12 categories that cover most types of profile pictures.

1 The professionally taken photo

You use social media **mainly for business or career purposes.**



2

You want to show **what you have achieved** in your family life, and are generally more interested in a response from women than from men.

3

You see **your other half** as the most important thing in your life, and you see yourself as one half of a couple.

4 **Having fun with friends**

Generally **young and carefree**, you want to project an image of being fun and popular.

5

You are a bit of an escapist and keen to show **a different side of yourself** from what you do on a day-to-day basis.

6

This kind of image says that you don't really want to **grow up** and face the future. You are nostalgic for your childhood.

7 **Caricature**

Using a caricature is a way of saying that your image isn't rigid and that you don't **take yourself too seriously**.

8 **Photo related to your name, but not actually you (a shop sign, or product label for example)**

You want to be identifiable, but you feel your name is more important than what you look like.

9 **Photo related to your political beliefs or a team that you support**

You think that your beliefs and interests are more important than your personality.



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You think that showing yourself with **a well-known person** will make you seem more important.

11 **Self-portrait taken with webcam or camera phone**

Functional. It says, 'Look, I don't **dress up**; take me as I am.'

12 _____

You only use social media in a professional capacity, and you identify more with your work role than with your private life.

Adapted from The Irish Times