Hey Becka, do you want to come hang out at the mall?

**Cough**
**Cough**

Um...

**Cough**

Okay...

I hope no one thinks I’m sick because of my coughing tic.

**Cough**
**Cough**
Hey Becka!

Hey guys!

Ready to hit some stores?

**Cough**

**Cough**

**Cough**

**Cough**

**Cough**

Let's see what's happening at the food court.

Do you hear that girl who keeps coughing?

**Cough**
I overheard you talking and I wanted to let you know that my coughing is part of my medical condition called Tourette Syndrome. It causes me to make movements and sounds called tics that I can't control. I'm not sick or contagious.
Wow. Sorry, we didn’t realize. If we had known, we wouldn’t have said that.

Do you and your friends want to sit with us?

Sure, thanks for understanding. The more people know about Tourette, the less stigma there is.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE ‘I HAVE TOURETTE SYNDROME’ IDENTIFICATION CARD IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH VISIT TOURETTE.ORG/TS-CARD!

Why do I act this way? Because I can’t control it.

I have Tourette Syndrome—a medical condition. It causes me to make loud sounds, have twitches and say things I don’t mean. Please understand that this is a medical condition and I cannot control my tics. Treatment for Tourette and tics is limited and there is no cure. I am grateful for your understanding and empathy.

My condition is covered by the American Disabilities Act. Visit Tourette.org to learn more.
This publication was supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number, NU58DD005375-02, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.