

**Smart**  
**Alert**  
**Strong**  
**Kind**  
**Brave**

**Be**  
**Internet**  
**Awesome.**



Welcome to the Be Internet Awesome curriculum, a collaboration among Google, The Net Safety Collaborative, and the Internet Keep Safe Coalition. This resource is part of the Be Internet Awesome programme designed to help teach children the skills they need to be safe and smart online.

This year, we have added 10 new activities to the curriculum. We partnered with the Committee for Children, nonprofit organization, to create new social-emotional learning activities to help guide children on their digital journeys. Additionally, we have added new lessons on search literacy and updated our safety and security activities to meet the needs of digital world of today. You will also find activities categorized for specific grade levels to accommodate the wide spectrum of child development.

Notably, the Be Internet Awesome programme has undergone a thorough evaluation by the Crimes Against Children Research Center of the University of New Hampshire. As a result of the study, this is the first internet safety programme proven to impact positively student learning on topics of online safety and digital citizenship.

The Be Internet Awesome curriculum is self-contained. All the activities are designed to be used without prior professional development, with minimal class prep and with no special equipment or resources needed to teach them. Additionally, the lessons are reinforced through gameplay using Interland; an adventure-packed online game that makes learning about digital safety and citizenship interactive and fun—just like the Internet itself.

Five fundamental topics of digital citizenship and safety form the Internet Code of Awesome:

- **Share with Care:** Digital Footprint and Responsible Communication
- **Don't Fall for Fake:** Phishing, Scams, and Credible Sources
- **Secure Your Secrets:** Online Security and Passwords
- **It is Cool to Be Kind:** Combating Negative Online Behaviour
- **When in Doubt, Talk It Out:** Questionable Content and Scenarios

This curriculum was created for learners in grades 2-6, however teachers with both older and younger students have found value in the lessons, particularly with key vocabulary, class discussions (they age up or down), and gameplay. We encourage you to experiment to find what works best for your learners, whether that means completing the curriculum from start to finish or going deep on one or two lessons needed the most by your students. To complement the curriculum, you will find additional educator and family resources such as ready-to-teach Pear Deck slides, printable activities, and a family guide and tips for the home.

The International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) completed an independent audit of Be Internet Awesome, recognizing the programme as a resource that prepares young learners to meet the 2021 ISTE Standards for Students. ISTE has awarded Be Internet Awesome with the Seal of Alignment for Readiness.

# Table of Contents

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| <b>Educator's Guide</b>                           | Resource 1 <b>How to teach the curriculum</b>               | <b>4</b>   |
|   | Resource 2 <b>Vocabulary Activities</b>                     |            |
|   | Resource 3 <b>Parent introduction email/letter template</b> |            |
|   | Resource 4 <b>Frequently asked questions</b>                |            |
| <b>Share with Care<br/>Unit 01</b>                | Lesson 1 <b>When not to share</b>                           | <b>12</b>  |
|   | Lesson 2 <b>Keeping it private</b>                          |            |
|   | Lesson 3 <b>That is not what I meant!</b>                   |            |
|   | Lesson 4 <b>Frame it</b>                                    |            |
|   | Lesson 5 <b>Who is this person anyway?</b>                  |            |
|   | Lesson 6 <b>How do others see us online?</b>                |            |
|   | Lesson 7 <b>Interland: Mindful Mountain</b>                 |            |
| <b>Don't Fall for Fake<br/>Unit 02</b>            | Lesson 1 <b>Popups, catfishing and other scams</b>          | <b>34</b>  |
|   | Lesson 2 <b>Who is this 'talking' to me?</b>                |            |
|   | Lesson 3 <b>Is that really true?</b>                        |            |
|   | Lesson 4 <b>Spotting untrustworthy information online</b>   |            |
|   | Lesson 5 <b>If we were a search engine</b>                  |            |
|   | Lesson 6 <b>Practising Internet search</b>                  |            |
|   | Lesson 7 <b>Interland: Reality River</b>                    |            |
| <b>Secure Your Secrets<br/>Unit 03</b>            | Lesson 1 <b>But that was not me!</b>                        | <b>70</b>  |
|   | Lesson 2 <b>How to build a great password</b>               |            |
|   | Lesson 3 <b>Keep it to yourself</b>                         |            |
|   | Lesson 4 <b>Interland: Tower of Treasure</b>                |            |
| <b>It is Cool to Be Kind<br/>Unit 04</b>          | Lesson 1.1 <b>Noticing feelings</b>                         | <b>82</b>  |
|   | Lesson 1.2 <b>Practising empathy</b>                        |            |
|   | Lesson 2.1 <b>Your kindness gram</b>                        |            |
|   | Lesson 2.2 <b>Ways to show kindness</b>                     |            |
|   | Lesson 3 <b>From negative to nice</b>                       |            |
|   | Lesson 4 <b>About your tone</b>                             |            |
|   | Lesson 5 <b>How words can change the whole picture</b>      |            |
|   | Lesson 6 <b>Interland: Kind Kingdom</b>                     |            |
| <b>When in Doubt,<br/>Talk It Out<br/>Unit 05</b> | Lesson 1 <b>What does it mean to be brave?</b>              | <b>110</b> |
|   | Lesson 2 <b>From bystanders to helpers</b>                  |            |
|   | Lesson 3 <b>Helpers have options!</b>                       |            |
|   | Lesson 4.1 <b>Seeing upsetting stuff: What do I do?</b>     |            |
|   | Lesson 4.2 <b>Upsetting stuff online: What do I do?</b>     |            |
|   | Lesson 5.1 <b>What to do about mean stuff on screens</b>    |            |
|   | Lesson 5.2 <b>Handling mean behaviour online</b>            |            |
|   | Lesson 6 <b>When to get help</b>                            |            |
|   | Lesson 7 <b>Report it online, too</b>                       |            |

# How to teach the curriculum

The Be Internet Awesome curriculum is designed flexibly so you can make it work easily in your classroom for your unique group of students. Depending on your timetable and student readiness, we encourage you to tweak any lesson as needed. For example, we might recommend an activity for the whole class but, knowing your students better, you might feel that the activity would work better if they complete it in small groups. Those are the kinds of tweaks we hope you feel empowered to make. Work that teacher magic!

## A few things about the curriculum:

1. Every unit has a list of vocabulary words that appear throughout the lessons. This list can be printed and provided to students as a resource. Be sure to check out the **Vocabulary Activities** we have provided in the following pages!

2. Each of the 5 units has a different number of lessons. Every lesson has the following structure:

- ✓ **Goals for students**
- ✓ **Let's talk**—background knowledge for teachers written in a student-friendly language (just in case you want to read it to your students)
- ✓ **Activity**—some activities may have modifications as recommended for a grade-level.
- ✓ **Takeaway**—summary of lesson content and opportunity for reflection.

3. Each lesson title will be marked with a symbol to indicate grade-level recommendation. It will also have a symbol if it is a Media Literacy and/or Social-Emotional Learning lesson.



**Grades  
2-6**



**Grades  
2-3**



**Grades  
4-6**



**Media  
Literacy**



**Social-Emotional  
Learning**

4. This curriculum is designed for you to teach in two different ways: either in the order in which the lessons appear or in an order that matches the particular digital learning needs of your own students. The units are purposefully sequenced for classrooms starting from scratch, but many elementary grade students know parts of this knowledge base and can help you discover the specific skills they want or need to develop. Talking with them about what they know and what they do not know would be a great place to start. We hope you all enjoy being **Internet awesome** together!



# Vocabulary Activities

The vocabulary used in these activities can be found at the beginning of each unit.

## Tell Me More



### Materials needed:

- Board to display vocabulary words (chalkboard, poster paper, whiteboard, etc.)

### Directions

1. Students find a partner.
2. Partner 1 turns his or her back to the board (students can be seated or standing).
3. The teacher displays three to five vocabulary words on the board.
4. Partner 2 faces the board and explains the first vocabulary word to Partner 1 **without saying the vocabulary word**.
5. Partner 1 tries guessing the vocabulary word.
6. Once Partner 1 correctly guesses the first vocabulary word, Partner 2 moves on to describe the next word.
7. Continue steps 3–6 until Partner 1 correctly guesses all the words on the board.
8. For the next round, Partners 1 and 2 switch roles. Repeat the activity with new vocabulary words.

## Be Internet

### Awesome Bingo



### Materials needed:

- Handout: Be Internet Awesome bingo cards
- Game pieces (anything that can be used to mark a spot—small cubes, paper clips, beans, etc.)

### Directions

1. Distribute **Be Internet Awesome bingo cards** (choose between a 5x5 or 3x3 bingo card) and game pieces to each student.
2. Students fill in bingo cards with vocabulary words from a given unit.
3. The teacher reads the **definition** of a vocabulary word.  
*The teacher can randomly pick definitions from the vocabulary list of the unit.*
4. Students search to see if the word that matches the definition is on their board and mark it with a game piece.
5. A student can call out “Bingo!” when every spot in a row, column, or diagonal has a game piece.
6. Continue playing with the current bingo cards, or have students remove all game pieces and play again.

## Word Web



### Materials needed:

- Handout: Word Web (page 8)

### Directions

1. Each student finds one partner.
2. Distribute **Word Web** handout to each group (students can also re-create the Word Web handout on paper).
3. Students write one vocabulary word in the circle on the handout. You can implement this step in three different ways:
  - Assign the same vocabulary word for all groups.
  - Assign a different word to each group.
  - Students choose their own vocabulary word from the unit list.
4. Students then work with their partners to complete the handout.
5. Once they complete, here are some ways you can extend this activity:
  - Students complete another Word Web for a new vocabulary word.
  - Collect completed handouts and display them in the classroom on a word wall.
  - Host a gallery walk, where students see their classmates' Word Webs.

# Be Internet Awesome bingo card (5x5)

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# Be Internet Awesome bingo card (3x3)

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|--|--|--|
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|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

# Word Web

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Definition | Characteristics |
| Examples   | Non-examples    |

# Parent introduction email/letter template

Here is a template for an email or letter that you can customize to tell parents that you are using Be Internet Awesome to help their children learn how to be safe, smart digital citizens.



**Dear Parent,**

When our children are young, we do our best to help them get the most out of the Internet while at the same time, keeping them safe online. As children mature into teenhood, our role shifts to helping them learn how to navigate the digital parts of their lives safely and thoughtfully.

At [school name], we believe in partnering with parents in preparing our [grade] students to:

- **Think critically** and evaluate apps, websites and other digital content sources.
- **Protect themselves** from online threats, including bullying and scams.
- **Get smart about sharing:** what, when, how, and with whom.
- **Be kind and respectful** toward other people online, including respecting their privacy.
- **Ask for help** with tricky situations from a parent or other trusted adults.

This year, these efforts will include Be Internet Awesome, a multifaceted program designed to teach children the skills they need to be safe and smart online. One of the resources, Interland, is a browser-based game that makes learning these skills interactive and fun. It can be played at home too (your child might love to show you how it is done). Developed by Google in partnership with educators, researchers, and online-safety experts at The Net Safety Collaborative and iKeepSafe.org, Be Internet Awesome provides fun-filled, age-appropriate learning experiences built around five foundational lessons:

- **Share with Care**
- **Don't Fall for Fake**
- **Secure Your Secrets**
- **It is Good to Be Kind**
- **When in Doubt, Talk It Out**

Smart and safe use of technology can enable students to drive their own learning and help our school function better. We believe that this programme will mark an important step toward our goal of ensuring that all our students at [school name] are learning, exploring, and staying safe online, both inside and outside the school walls.

We will be happy to share more information about this new program, including introductions to some of the resources your student will start using in class, but we also invite you to check out the resources that go with it at [g.co/BeInternetAwesome](https://g.co/BeInternetAwesome). We encourage you to ask your student about what they are learning and continue the conversation at home—and who knows, you might just pick up a few privacy and security tricks yourself!

Sincerely,  
[You]

# Frequently asked questions

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## **Is it necessary to complete the lessons before having students play Interland?**

No, but it can be helpful. The game is best when it reinforces what is learned with the curriculum—but it is more fun when students have had a chance to engage with you in discussions and brainstorms prior to the game play experience.

## **Do students need Google Accounts for Be Internet Awesome?**

Not so! Be Internet Awesome is available to anyone who visits the site. Because Google does not gather any student data, Be Internet Awesome does not have or require any logins, passwords or emails.

## **Which devices are compatible with Interland?**

Interland works on any device that has an Internet connection and a web browser. That means any desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or mobile phone is ready to help students access Be Internet Awesome.

## **What are all the URLs?**

- For the Be Internet Awesome homepage, visit [g.co/BeInternetAwesome](https://g.co/BeInternetAwesome).
- For the Interland game, visit [g.co/Interland](https://g.co/Interland).
- For the Be Internet Awesome curriculum, visit [g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators](https://g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators).
- For family resources, visit [g.co/BeInternetAwesomeFamilies](https://g.co/BeInternetAwesomeFamilies).

## **Do I need special training or to be a special kind of teacher to teach this curriculum?**

- First: Any K–12 teacher can teach this curriculum to their students. No extra training is required.
- Second: Every teacher is special. :)
- Third: The lessons are optimized for fun, relaxed give-and-take between teacher and students, ideally with active listening that is judgment-free on the educator's part.

## **Which grade level is Be Internet Awesome best suited for?**

The full program, including the curriculum, the game, and the resources on the website, was designed for users from 2nd to 6th grade (ages 7–12). However, depending on how teachers tailor the curriculum, the topics can be helpful for any grade level.

## **How do kids learn from the game?**

The game reinforces curriculum concepts by allowing them the freedom to explore healthy digital practices through play and understand digital interactions (and their consequences) in a safe, educational space.

## **Can each lesson be used in Google Classroom?**

Yes, yes, and more yes. You can assign Interland to specific classes or sections, or make the resource available to all your students in the form of a class announcement.

**Is there a shared folder or website with worksheet handouts easily accessible to project onto a whiteboard?**

Yes—in the form of presentation decks. For the most current updates, we worked with Pear Deck to adapt the curriculum to slide decks for easy presentation, distribution, and sharing. You can find them at [g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators](http://g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators).

**Do I need to be an expert in digital citizenship to use this program?**

Not at all. The curriculum was designed so that any teacher can pick it up and teach it in their class. Furthermore, if you are interested in brushing up or learning more on digital safety and citizenship topics, you can take our online course for educators at [g.co/OnlineSafetyEduTraining](http://g.co/OnlineSafetyEduTraining).

**Is the Be Internet Awesome curriculum aligned with any national or state standards?**

Glad you asked. Yes, it is. The curriculum is aligned with both ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) and AASL (American Association of School Librarians) standards.

**Can my students save their work on Interland?**

Not in the current version, and that is not likely to change. Be Internet Awesome does not generate or store any personal identifiable information whatsoever—including savefiles. The reasons for this were purposeful—we do not collect student data, and we wanted the experience to be accessible to everyone—so it is not necessary to have an account, a login or a password.

**That is good, but many of my students are proud they finished the game, and of what they learned.**

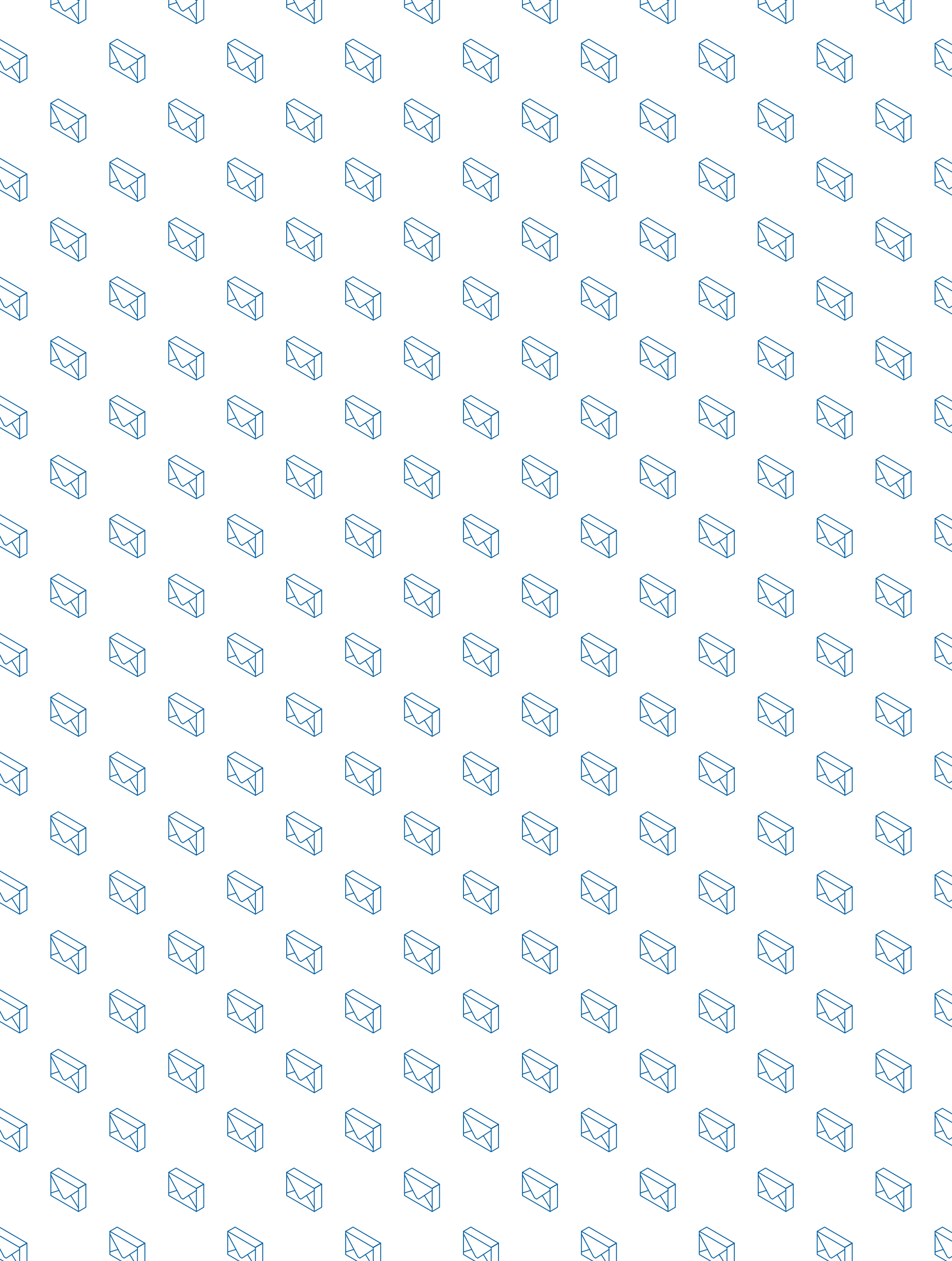
We hear you, and for that reason we have created a customizable certificate template so that you can enter a student's name and create a printable, personalized certificate of course completion for your students.

**Where can I find the other educator resources?**

All Be Internet Awesome educator materials can be found on our resources page at [g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators](http://g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators).

**Is there an online community of Be Internet Awesome users to share ideas with or get help from?**

Yes! (And we love it.) We frequently share ideas and engage with teachers on Twitter. Please follow us to learn more about Be Internet Awesome and other topics at [@GoogleForEdu](https://twitter.com/GoogleForEdu).





# Share with Care

## Protecting yourself, your information and your privacy online

### Lesson overview

|          |                                     |                      |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lesson 1 | <b>When not to share</b>            | Grades 2–6           |
| Lesson 2 | <b>Keeping it private</b>           | Grades 2–6           |
| Lesson 3 | <b>That is not what I meant!</b>    | <b>ML</b> Grades 2–6 |
| Lesson 4 | <b>Frame it</b>                     | <b>ML</b> Grades 2–6 |
| Lesson 5 | <b>Who is this person, anyway?</b>  | Grades 2–6           |
| Lesson 6 | <b>How do others see us online?</b> | Grades 2–6           |
| Lesson 7 | <b>Interland: Mindful Mountain</b>  | Grades 2–6           |

### Themes

Teachers and parents understand how digital mistakes can hurt feelings, reputations, and privacy. But it can be harder to convince children that a seemingly harmless post today could be misunderstood tomorrow—let alone in the future, and by people they never thought would see it.

These activities use concrete examples and thought-provoking discussions to teach young learners how to maintain a positive online presence and protect their privacy.

### Goals for students

- ✓ **Create and manage** a positive reputation both online and offline.
- ✓ **Respect** the privacy boundaries of others, even if they are different from one's own.
- ✓ **Understand** the potential impact of a mismanaged digital footprint.
- ✓ **Ask** for help from an adult when dealing with sticky situations.

### Standards addressed

**ISTE Standards for Educators:** 1a, 1b, 2a, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4b, 4d, 5a, 6a, 6b, 6d, 7a

**ISTE Standards for Students:** 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2d, 3b, 3d

**AASL Learning Standards:** I.a.1, I.b.1, I.c.1, I.d.3, I.d.4, II.a.2, II.b.1, II.b.2, II.b.3, II.c.1, II.c.2, d.2., III.a.1, III.a.2, III.a.3, III.b.1, III.c.1, III.c.2, III.d.1, III.d.2, IV.a.1, IV.a.2, V.a.2, VI.a.1, VI.a.2, VI.a.3

# Share with Care

## Vocabulary

### Lessons 1 and 2

**Online privacy:** A broad term that usually means the ability to control what information you share about yourself online and who can see and share it.

**Personal information:** Information that identifies you—for example, your name, street address, phone number, social security number, email address, etc.—is called personal (or sensitive) info. It is a good idea to make a rule for yourself not to share this kind of information online.

**Reputation:** The ideas, opinions, impressions, or beliefs that other people have about you—something that you cannot be totally sure of but that which you usually want to be positive or good.

### Lesson 3

**Code:** A word or phrase, an image (like a logo or emoji) or some other symbol or collection of symbols that represent a certain meaning or message. Sometimes it is a secret code that only certain people understand; often, it is just a symbol that stands for something almost everybody understands.

**Context:** Information that surrounds the message or whatever we are seeing which helps us understand it. Context can include the place where the message is, the time when it appears or who it is coming from.

**Interpret:** The way a person understands a message, or the meaning they get from it.

**Representation:** A picture, symbol or description that says a lot about (or expresses a truth about) a thing, a person or a group.

### Lesson 4

**Frame:** When you take a photo or video of a landscape, person or object, the frame is what defines the section that the viewer can see. The part you decide to leave outside the frame is what your viewer will not be able to see.

### Lessons 5 and 6

**Assumption:** Something that you or other people think is true about a person or a thing but there is no proof that it's true.

**Curate:** To decide what to post online—text, photos, sounds, illustrations or videos—and then organize and present it while thinking about what effects it might have on people who see it, or what it might make them think about you.

**Digital footprint (or digital presence):** Your digital footprint is all the information about you that appears online. This can mean anything from photos, audio, videos and texts to “likes” and comments you post on friends’ profiles. Just as your footsteps leave prints on the ground while you walk, what you post online leaves a trail too.

**Fact:** Something that is or can be proven to be true

**Opinion:** Something you or other people believe about a person or a thing that is not necessarily a fact because a belief cannot be proved.

### Lesson 7

**Oversharing:** Sharing too much online—usually it means sharing personal information or just too much information about yourself in a certain situation or conversation online.

## Share with Care: Lesson 1

# When not to share

Students pair up and compare pretend-secrets to start thinking about zones of privacy.

**About this lesson:** *This is a foundational lesson on Internet privacy for people of all ages. It is the one about how it is almost impossible to take back what you share, control who will see it and how far into the future it will be seen. It might help if you ask your students what technologies they use first—and then refer to those media and devices in the activity. If you are not familiar with the apps, no problem! As you know, your students would probably love it if you ask them to help you with that.*

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** what kinds of personal information should be kept private and why.
- ✓ **Remember** that everyone deserves to have his or her privacy decisions respected.

## Let us talk



### Why does privacy matter?

The Internet makes it so easy to communicate with family, friends and everybody else. We send messages, share photos, join chats and livestream—sometimes without thinking about who can see them, either right then or at a completely different time.

A picture or post you think is funny and harmless could be misunderstood by people you never thought would see it—now or way off in the future. Feelings could get hurt. Someone who does not get the joke could think you are mean just because he or she does not know you. Once something is out there, it is hard to take it back, and people can copy, screenshot it and share it. Remember:

- What you post or share could be seen by people you will never meet.
- Once something about you is online, it could be there forever—even if someone else just takes a screenshot and shares it. It is like a permanent marker: the marks it makes are really hard to erase.
- All put together, many bits of information that are public and hard to erase are what make up a reputation—what people think of you. So you should have as much control as possible over what you share.

That is why your privacy matters. You can protect it by posting it privately or only sharing things that you are totally sure you want to share—in other words, by being careful about what you say, post and share online.

It is also good to know when to post nothing at all—not to react to somebody's post, photo or comment, share something that might not be true (even if it is just a joke), overshare (share too much) or post personal information. Everybody has heard "think before you post," and that is because it is really good advice. The way to respect your own and other people's privacy is to think about what is ok to post, who might see what you post, what effect it could have on you and other people (tomorrow or when you are all 16!) and when not to post anything at all.

Continued on the next page →

Some questions for further discussion (these questions can also go home with students for follow up family discussions):

- Why should we never post our full names, addresses, phone numbers and other personal information online?
- When is it ok to share a photo or video of someone else?
- Is it ever ok to tell someone else's secret or private information—why/why not? What if you think it is a joke?
- What if someone you care about is posting something private that makes you think he or she is in danger—would you share it? If you think so, should you tell them you are worried? Should you tell them that you are thinking about telling an adult who cares about them?

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## Activity



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### 1. Make up a secret

Make sure it is a **pretend** secret **not** a real one.

### 2. Tell your partner

Okay, got your secrets? Now let's all pair up, share your secret with your partner, and discuss these three questions:

- Would you share this secret with anyone?
- Whom would you share your secret with and why?
- How would you feel if someone told everyone your secret without your permission?

### 3. Tell the class

Finally, each student tells the class his/her pretend-secret and how he/she felt about sharing it. The class can discuss their answers to the questions above.

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## Takeaway

Secrets are just one type of personal information that we keep private online—or share only with trusted family or friends. Once you have shared a secret, you are no longer in control of where it can go. That is why people say that we should always think before we post (they are right!). Other kinds of information you should never post online:

- Your home address and phone number
- Your email
- Your passwords
- Your full name
- Your grades and schoolwork

# Keeping it private

The class reviews four written scenarios and discusses what might be the best privacy solution for each one.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Analyze** how to see privacy concerns from different people's points of view.
- ✓ **Understand** how different scenarios call for different levels of privacy.

## Let us talk



### Privacy scenarios: What should you do?

Take a look at the scenarios below to learn more.

## Activity



We are going to review the five scenarios and talk about how each one might have a different privacy solution. We shall split up into four groups, discuss one scenario each, and then come back for a class discussion about our findings.

### Materials needed:

- Teacher's outline: "Keeping it private"

## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** Someone told Child A that it is good to change up passwords and passcodes on our phones every now and then. So they decide to change their passwords for their favourite game. Child A's best friend, Child B, likes to play the game too but doesn't have a login for it, so Child B plays the game with Child A's log-in. Child A shares the new password with Child B.

- Was it good that Child A changed his or her password?
- Was it good that Child A shared his or her password with Child B? Why or why not?

What if Child A shares his or her password for a social media account too? Would it be the same answer? Would it be the same answer when they are in high school and have different friends?

**Scenario 2:** Someone writes in their personal journal. You find out that a friend found it when they spent the night at their house and thought it would be a funny joke to post parts of it online.

- Was the friend wrong to post that information online? Was it funny? Why or why not?
- How would you feel if someone did this with something you did not want anyone else to see?

Continued on the next page →

**Scenario 3:** Someone posts, “Have a great vacation,” on a friend’s social media page.

- Had the friend announced publicly that they were going away? Did they want everybody on the planet to know? (Well not **everybody** on the planet, but you never know.)
- Are there more private ways to communicate this message?

**Scenario 4:** You know that another student made a fake social media account that is impersonating someone else and makes them look bad. It also includes their personal information.

- Does the student being impersonated have a right to know—would you tell them?
- It is not obvious who made it, but you know who did it. Should you tell the person to take it down?
- Should you tell a teacher or other trusted adult?
- What could happen if nobody does?

**Scenario 5:** The children at your house take turns using your mother’s tablet, so everybody knows the passcode. Your whole family also has one account for doing online shopping at this one website. That was all fine until one day your brother had a friend over and they were using your mother’s tablet to look at some amazing headphones for gamers on that shopping site. Your brother went to get a snack in the kitchen, then they went outside to shoot some hoops. A few days later, this box arrived at your house.

It had headphones in it. Your brother said he did not order them. You believe him.

- Your parents are going to wonder how that headset arrived at your house—what do you and your brother decide to do?
- What about the password part? Do you see a problem with everybody in a family using the same passwords for family devices and accounts if friends can use those devices and accounts? Would you talk to your family about that?

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## Takeaway

Different situations call for different responses, online and offline. It is always important to respect other people’s privacy choices, even if they are not the choices you would make yourself.

# Keeping it private

**Note to teachers:** This sheet is to help you guide the discussions for this lesson; it is not a handout for your students. Write their correct and/or best responses on the board and discuss.

## Scenario 1

- **Was it good that Child A changed their password?**

Yes, it is basic privacy good practice to have different passwords for different devices and services and to change them at least once a year.

- **Was it good that Child A shared their password with Child B? Why or why not?**

No, we know that children often share passwords with their friends and that they need to learn this is not good digital privacy or security. This is where you can help tease out reasons why it is not good. You can ask them the question: "Can you think of any situations where you would not want someone besides a trusted adult to have your password forever?" Examples could include:

- Sometimes friendships go south and people get mad—would you want someone mad at you to be able to share your password with anybody?
- What if your friend had the passcode to your phone and logged in, pretended to be you and—just for a joke—said weird or mean things about someone else you both know? The friend would make it look like it is you saying those things.
- If you shared your password with someone who moved away, would you want them to be able to access your accounts and private information forever?
- What if you are playing a game and another player asks for your log-in so they can play as you? Would you give them that log-in information even if they are your friend? Think about what you can do in that game and how they would be able to do everything in your account that you can do. Is that fine? Would that be fine next week or next year?

- **What if Child A shares their password for a social media account too? Would it be the same answer? Would it be the same answer even when they are in high school and have different friends?**

- Yes, it would be the same answer, because it is not good to share passwords for any kind of account with friends, even the closest ones, because—as in the first point just above, friendships change, sometimes friends sometimes become ex-friends, and you would not want to just open your account or profile to someone who does not care about you. Because then they could edit your info, make you look bad, make it look like you are posting something mean about someone else, etc.

## Scenario 2

- **Was the friend wrong to post that information online? Was it funny? Why or why not?**

*Some students might say it is funny if what they are sharing is funny, so drill down a bit and ask those students the next question...*

- **How would you feel if someone did this with something you didn't want anyone else to see?**

---

### Scenario 3

- **Had the friend announced publicly that they were going away?**

*For the sake of discussion, let us say the answer is yes, then ask the class...*

- **Did they want everybody on the planet to know?**

*No. (Probably)*

- **Why not?**

*Some good answers could include: Because their family may want their whereabouts to be confidential or may be concerned about the security of their home when nobody is there.*

- **Are there more private ways to communicate this message?**

*They will probably come up with some good answers, e.g., sending a private message, a text, calling them on the phone, etc.*

---

### Scenario 4

- **Does the student being impersonated have a right to know—would you tell them?**

*You will have your own answer for the first part of this question, but it might be interesting to hear the students' answers and have a discussion about that, whether they would tell the victim and what they would tell them.*

- **It is not obvious who made it, but you know who did it. Should you tell the person to take it down?**

*Not everyone would feel comfortable confronting the aggressor, and that is fine. Ask the class if anyone would feel comfortable doing so and why. See if a discussion ensues.*

- **Should someone tell a teacher or other trusted adult?**

*Yes, if no one tells the aggressor to take it down or if someone does and the account stays up.*

*Help your students see that protecting someone else from harm—including embarrassment, social exclusion, harassment and bullying—is important. It is not “tattling.” What is important is that the intention is protecting someone not getting the other person in trouble.*

- **What could happen if nobody does?**

*Harm being done to someone is not stopped.*

*This is a good talking point for class discussion about caring for others and why that's important. More on that in the **Be Internet Kind** section.*

---

### Scenario 5

- **Your parents are going to wonder how those headphones arrived at your house—what do you and your brother decide to do?**

*Your students may reflexively focus on what is and is not the right thing to do and say—which is just fine—have a short discussion about that and see if they reach any consensus on that.*

- **What about the password part? Talk to me about the risks of everybody in a family using the same passwords for family devices and accounts.**

*Many families do this. See if you can get students thinking out loud about 1) protecting family passwords when friends come over, 2) why it is important not to share family passwords with friends and other people outside the family and 3) what other problems could happen besides friends ordering stuff with family accounts.*



## Share with Care: Lesson 3

# That is not what I meant!

Using only emojis, students create t-shirts to represent themselves. In the process, they learn that different people can interpret the same message differently.

**Media literacy background for teachers:** *When we wear t-shirts featuring corporate logos, sports teams, schools, musicians, politicians, etc., we are essentially walking billboards. This activity demonstrates that a t-shirt is both direct communication and media at the same time and helps students see that screens are not the only kind of place where media can be found.*

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Learn** the importance of asking the question: How might others see this message differently from me?
- ✓ **Grow awareness** of the many visual cues people use to communicate.
- ✓ **See** that sharing something online as well as on a t-shirt is making media.
- ✓ **Learn** what “context” and “representation” mean.

## Let us talk



Has anyone ever misunderstood something you said, did, wrote or posted online? Did they get mad or sad, so you had to explain that you did not mean what they thought you meant?

Sometimes when we are communicating, **we** know what we mean, but the people we are communicating with don't understand, especially if we aren't in the same space. That is because people's experiences affect the way they interpret things like images and words.

To add to the confusion, there are a lot of messages we communicate without even knowing it. We tell people who we are—and judge who they are—using cues like our clothes, our hair style, and even the way we walk or gesture with our hands. This is called “representation”—expressing something about a thing, person, or group by using pictures, symbols, style and words.

Here is an example: If you were online and saw a picture of a person wearing a sports jersey with a team logo, you would probably think that the person is a fan of that team, and you would probably be right. That is because most of us recognize the design of sports jerseys—we know that is sports “code.” So even if we are not sure which team is being represented, we know it is probably a sports team.

But what if you saw a picture of someone wearing a cheese wedge on top of their head? What would you think about that person? If you live in Wisconsin or you are a football fan, you know that “cheese head” is a nickname for Green Bay Packers football fans. The person in the picture was using the cheese wedge hat to represent their support for the Packers.

If you didn't know the Packers fan “code,” you might think that the cheese hat was part of a Halloween costume or just plain weird. You might even be tempted to comment on

Continued on the next page →

how weird it was. That might make Packer fans mad. To them, your comment is rude and they might be tempted to respond with a mean comment about you. That makes you mad, so we end up with a mess of negative comments and hurt feelings.

So how do we make sure other people will understand what we mean when we post online? One way is to see ourselves as media creators—not just communicators or players. Every time we create an online profile, text someone, comment in game chat, or share a picture, we are making media. Like all good media creators, we want to be thoughtful about the media we make and share by pausing before we post and asking: “How might someone who is different from me interpret my message?”

---

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Handout: “Blank t-shirt” (one per student)
- Handout: “Emoji grid” (projected or posted so everyone can see)
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons to draw with
- Tape (or a way to display t-shirt drawings for a walkabout)

---

### 1. Describe yourself with emojis

To help us think about being skillful media creators, we are going to decorate t-shirts. Using the handout of the blank t-shirt outline, draw a representation of yourself using only emojis. You can use one, two, or three emojis, but no more. You can copy emojis from the grid or invent your own.

### 2. Show and tell

Pair up and try to guess what the emojis on your partner’s t-shirt say about them. Are your guesses accurate or do you have to explain to each other what your emoji picks mean?

### 3. Learn about each other

Post the “t-shirts” around the room so everyone can look at everyone else’s shirt. Can you accurately match each shirt with its owner?

### 4. As a class, discuss:

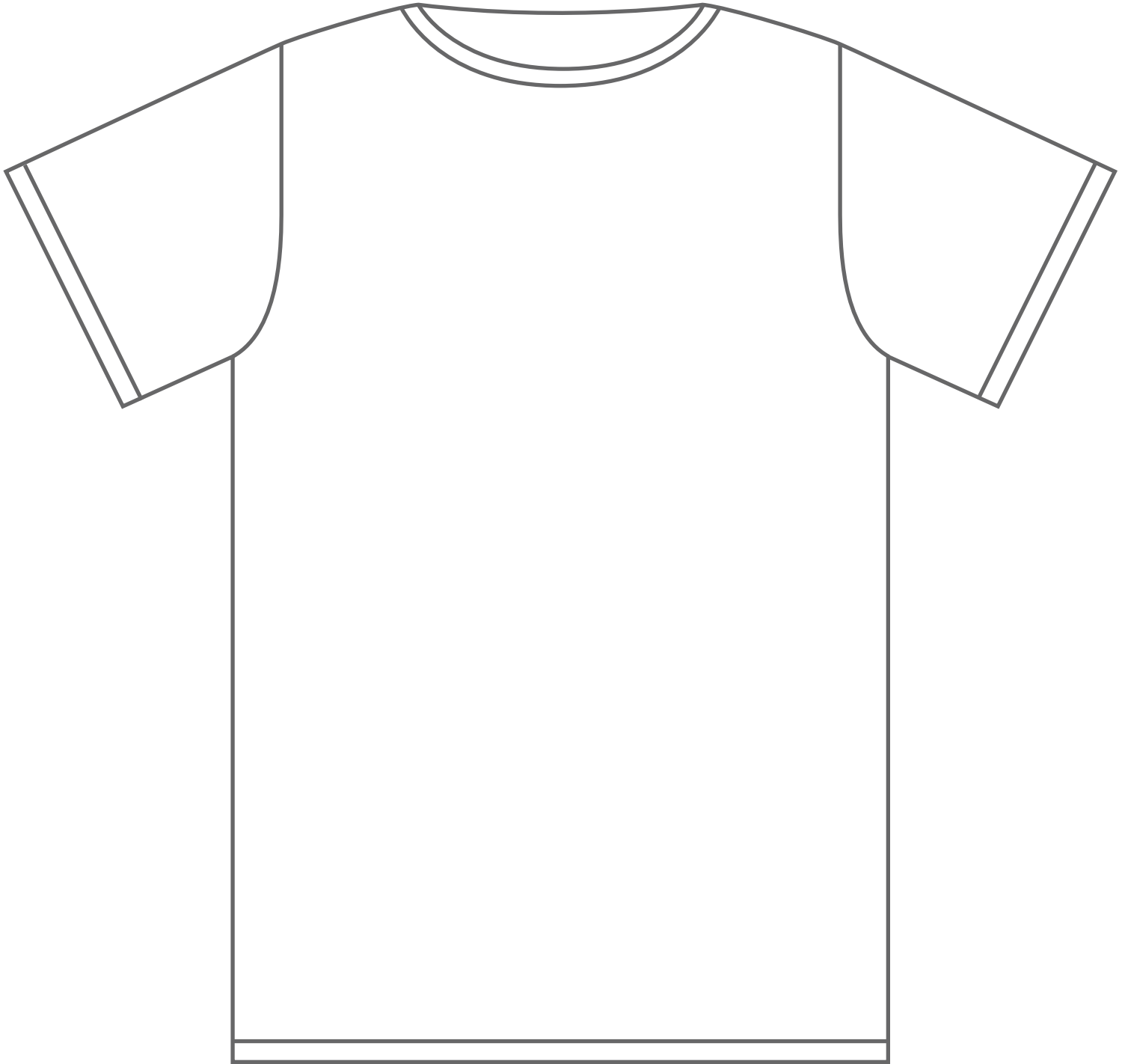
- What made it hard or easy to match shirts with classmates? What did you notice about the symbols on the shirts that were easy to match? Were some emojis used by lots of people? Were some used by only one person?
- Did everyone agree on the meaning of every emoji? How can context change the meaning of the emoji? Look at the emoji of the hands with the two fingers. How do you know if it means peace, victory, or the number 2? How about the fire emoji? Does it mean danger/emergency? Really popular or successful (“You are on fire, gentleman!”)? Does the meaning change depending on where it appears (grinning emoji on your homework might mean that your teacher thinks you did good work but in a text from a friend it might mean they are happy or joking)? Does the meaning change depending on what other emojis it is with?

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## Takeaway

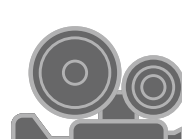
As media creators, before we post messages or pictures online, it is a good idea to pause and ask: “How could someone who is different from me interpret this? Am I sure they will understand what I mean?” Could they take it wrong? And we should ask ourselves the same things before **we** post or comment too. “Am I sure I understand what they mean? How can I know?”

# Blank t-shirt



## Handout: Lesson 3

# Emoji grid



## Share with Care: Lesson 4

# Frame it

**Media literacy background for teachers:** Media are made by people who make choices. The most basic of these are what to include and exclude. This lesson helps students see themselves as media makers when they decide what to share online.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Visualize** themselves as media creators.
- ✓ **Understand** media makers make choices about what to show and what to keep outside the frame.
- ✓ **Use** the concept of framing to understand the difference between what to make visible and public and what to keep secure or invisible.

## Let us talk



Visual media makers control how much information they want to share by **framing**. They decide what to include **inside the frame** (what we can see), and they decide what stays **outside the frame** (what is invisible).

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Index cards and scissors (one set per student)
- Handout: "What is in the frame?" or screen or smartboard with images projected

Run through each activity as a class, then discuss:

### 1. Framing

All pieces of media are the product of a series of choices by their media makers. One important choice is what to include and another one is what to leave out. When we take pictures or video, "in" and "out" are separated by a frame.

To see how this works, take your index card and cut a rectangle out of the center to make your own frame.

Hold the frame at arm's length and move it slowly toward your face and back out (you could also try this with the zoom function on a camera). What do you notice about what you can see inside the frame? How about if you move it side to side? Is there a way to hold the frame so you can see some of your classmates but not others, or some of the things on a wall but not others?

When you control the frame, you are the media maker. You have the power to decide what to include or leave out. What you choose to leave outside the frame is still there in real life, but people who view the media you made would never be able to see it.

### 2. Keep it in or leave it out?

Grab a handout, and look at picture 1A. What do you think you are looking at and how do you know? Now look at 1B. How does the added information help you get a better idea of what you are looking at?

Try it again with picture 2A. What do you think is casting the shadow? What's your evidence? 2B adds more information. Was your guess correct?

### **3. Too Much Information (TMI)?**

Extra information isn't always welcome. Sometimes it is a distraction that takes away from our ability to enjoy or understand the smaller frame image. Take a look at example #3 on the handout.

Sometimes it is fun to see how things are made. But what would it be like if every time you watched a movie, a TV show, or video you were not just seeing the small frame—what if you were also seeing all the cameras, microphones, crew members, and the edges of the set? Do you think you would enjoy the story as much?

### **4. You decide**

Every time you share something online, you are making media. And like the producers of a film, video or TV show, you can decide what people will see—what is inside the frame and what stays out of sight, outside the frame.

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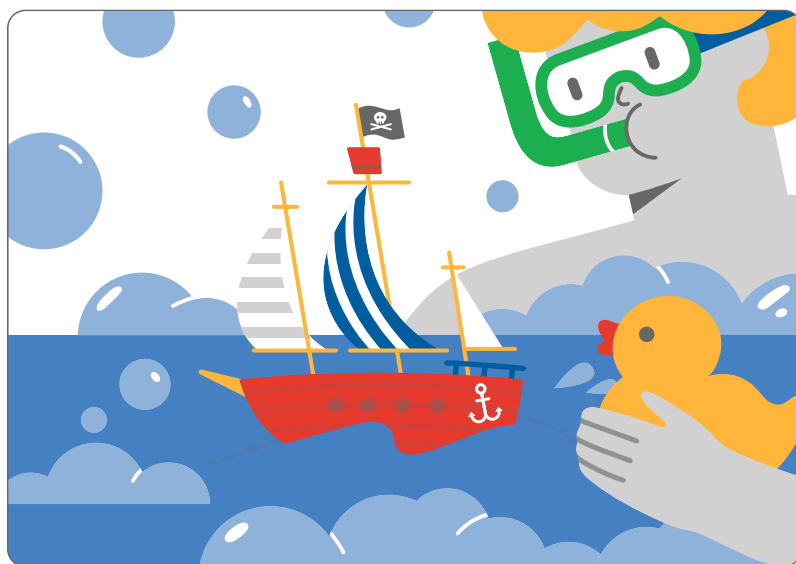
## **Takeaway**

As a media maker, you put a "frame" around what you share online so that other people see only what you want them to see.

# What is in the frame?



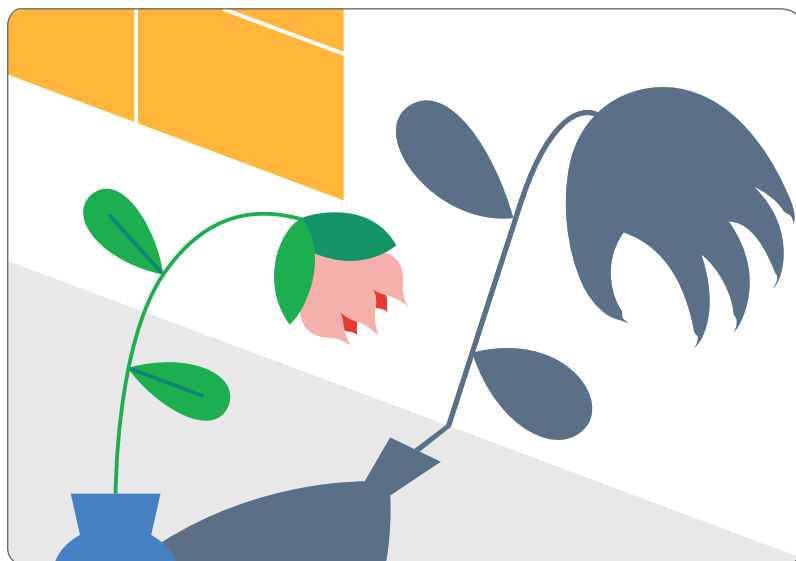
1A



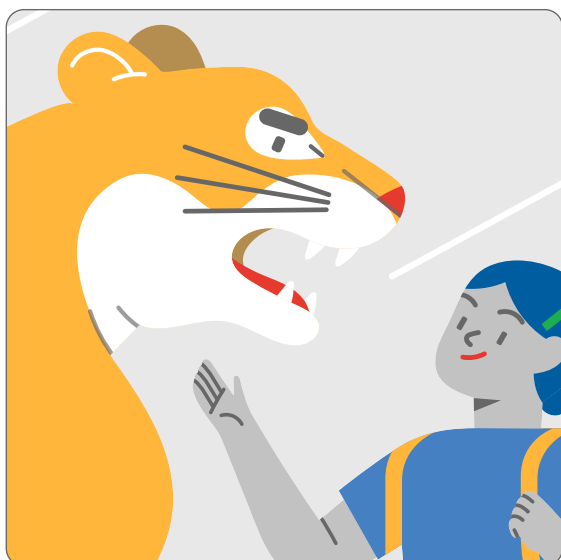
1B



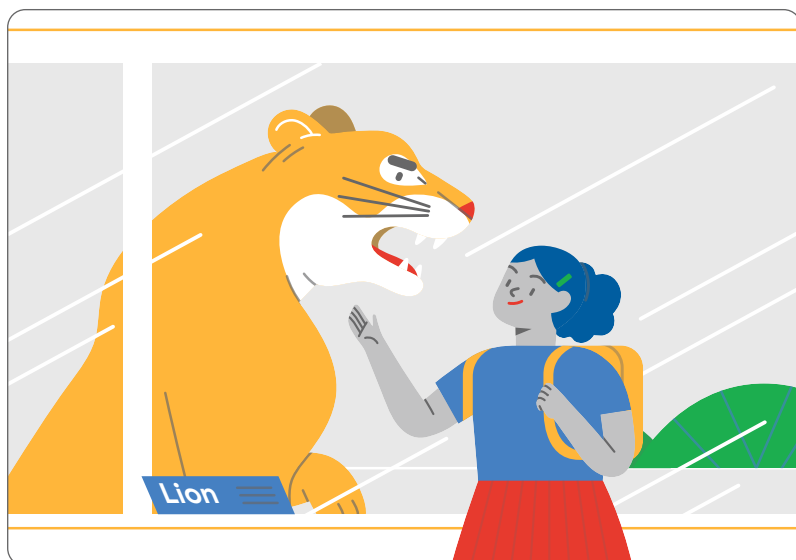
2A



2B



3A



3B

## Share with Care: Lesson 5

# Who is this person, anyway?

This lesson provides examples of what a “digital footprint” actually looks like. Students study a collection of personal information about a fictitious character—part of the character’s footprint—in order to try to deduce things about this person.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Identify** ways information can be found online about people.
- ✓ **Consider** how judgments are made about a person when they post things online, things that become part of their digital footprint.
- ✓ **Determine** accuracy of information and understand the difference between assumption, opinion and fact.

## Let us talk



### How we know what we (think we) know?

A lot of personal information can be found on the Internet. Some of it can cause us to think about things or make guesses about people that turn out not to be true. These are the questions we are going to explore:

- What might we learn about a person from their personal information or things they post?
- What can we guess from personal information, even if we are not sure?
- Do we know how this information was collected in the first place? How can we identify the source?

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: “Who is this person anyway?” (one per student)

**Possible modification for grades 2–3:** *If you feel your 2nd or 3rd graders are ready to talk about “digital footprints” in media, consider using the “I Do, We Do, You Do” strategy (where you model the first example on the worksheet, complete the 2nd example as a class, then turn it over to the students as individuals—and discuss!)*

### 1. Study the person

Have everyone read the collections of information about Fatima, Emeka, Kimani or a fictional character they create.

### 2. Write a description

Separate into groups, one character per group. Each group develops its own brief description of the person, answering the question: “Who do you think this person is?”

### 3. Read the description

Each group reads the description they came up with for their character.

### 4. Reveal the truth

Okay, now here is the truth about our characters. Let us compare it to what you thought the info they posted said about them:



- **Fatima** is a high school senior. She is going to college next year, hopes to study chemical engineering, and eventually wants to start her own company. She cares most about: family, volunteering, pop culture, fashion.
- **Emeka** is the starting pitcher on her high school softball team. She is 15 and lives in Lagos. She has an 8-year-old sister. She cares most about: baseball, studying art, playing the guitar, hanging with her friends.
- **Kimani** is 14. He just joined the soccer team and has two cats. He is very good at sketching and likes building robots on weekends. He cares most about: technology, his soccer team, animals and animal rights.

### 5. Discuss

How close were your descriptions of the characters to the facts about them? Why do you think you came up with your descriptions? Are your descriptions opinions, assumptions or facts? Explain why? What did you learn from this lesson?

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## Takeaway

When we see or hear people's posts, comments, photos and videos, we make guesses about them that are not always correct, especially if we do not know them. That is because what we are seeing online or at a certain moment in time is only part of who they are and what they care about. It could also be someone they are just pretending to be, or it is something they are feeling only in the moment that they are posting it. We cannot really know who they are or how they really feel until we know them in person—and even then it takes time!

# Who is this person anyway?

Read each collection of the person's online activity below. Based on what you see here, write a short description of what you think this person is like: What do they like, dislike, and care about most?

## Fatima

Under-the-sea photos from the dance! You all are looking good!

 Best Ways to Battle Zits

My little brother Alex is so annoying. Maybe he is an alien.

 Speeding ticket

 Young Chemists Conference at Thompson University


FINALLY SAW THE NEW SPY WARS MOVIE. Omg obsessed!

## Emeka


Won game! One more game to go before the championship. Have got to practice more throws.

I hate school dances. #notgoing

 Field Museum  
Chicago, IL

 Heading to Seattle for my golden birthday! Can't wait.

Playing catch with my dad at Penny Pack Park! Going to be awesome


 La Luna at  
City Center Area

## Kimani

 Barney's Burger Emporium

Missed the winning goal. Ugh. At least we tied.

 25 Photos of Puppies

 The Westfield High  
Junior Prom

Check out my friend's website! I wrote a lot of the code for it.

New high score!! Yes. I love the jam!!

# How do others see us online?

Students explore how different types of people—parents, employers, friends, the police—would see the character from the previous lesson, or what bits of their digital footprint can suggest about them.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** the perspectives of other people when we are deciding whether or not to share information online.
- ✓ **Consider** the consequences of exposing personal information: what you share becomes part of your digital footprint, which can last a long time.
- ✓ **Start** to think about what it means to curate what they post online and how that relates to their digital footprint.

## Let us talk



### A new point of view

The information in your digital footprint could tell people more—or just different—stuff about you than you want them to know. We are going to look at the consequences of that.

So let us pick one of those characters and pretend that we are them and that we posted those comments. We are going to try on their point of view.

- Do you think your character wants people to know all this personal info? Why or why not? What types of people would your character want (or not want) to see that info?
- How do you think this information would be **seen** by other people?
- How do you think it would be **used** by other people?

Different situations call for different levels of privacy. Thinking about how other people would view what you post is the key to good online privacy habits.

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Who is this person anyway?" from Lesson 5 (one per student)

**Possible modification for grades 2–3:** *If you feel your 2nd or 3rd graders are ready to talk about how they are seen in social media, consider reducing the number of perspectives, maybe Parent, Friend, Police Officer and themselves 10 years from now, then discuss as a class.*

### 1. Take a new point of view

We are going to go around the room and count off from 1 to 3, then form three groups. The 1's get to be Fatima, the 2's Emeka and the 3's Kimani. Then I (teacher) am going to go around to each group and pretend to be one or two of the following people (read list). Then your group will discuss how your character feels about the way the person I am pretending to be reacted to your information.

*As teacher, you will be role-playing how a parent, police officer, peer, high school student, etc. would react to the information on each character on the worksheet (pick 2–3 or ask the groups which characters they want you to be). Briefly—no more than 2 min. per role.*

- |                        |          |              |
|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| • Parent               | • Coach  | • Advertiser |
| • Friend               | • Police | • Employer   |
| • Yourself in 10 years |          |              |

Continued on the next page →

## 2. Group discussion

For 5–10 min., each group will discuss the choices their character made, the reactions of the people the teacher played and how they felt about those views of Fatima, Emeka and Kimani. Then I will ask each group to share with all of us what they discussed and learned about privacy choices online.

## 3. Class discussion

What are your top 3 takeaways from this activity? Did the different people who saw your information online make accurate assumptions about you? Do you think they formed positive or negative opinions about you? Were you satisfied with their responses? What do you think might be the consequences of someone forming a negative opinion about **you** from the information you post online? How would you curate the information or post differently now, knowing who saw it?

---

## Takeaway

Different people can see the same information and draw different conclusions from it. Don't assume that people online will see you the way you think they'll see you.

# Interland: Mindful Mountain

The mountainous town center of Interland is a place where everyone mingles and crosses paths. But you must be very intentional about what you share and with whom. Information travels at the speed of light, and there is an oversharer among the Internauts you know.

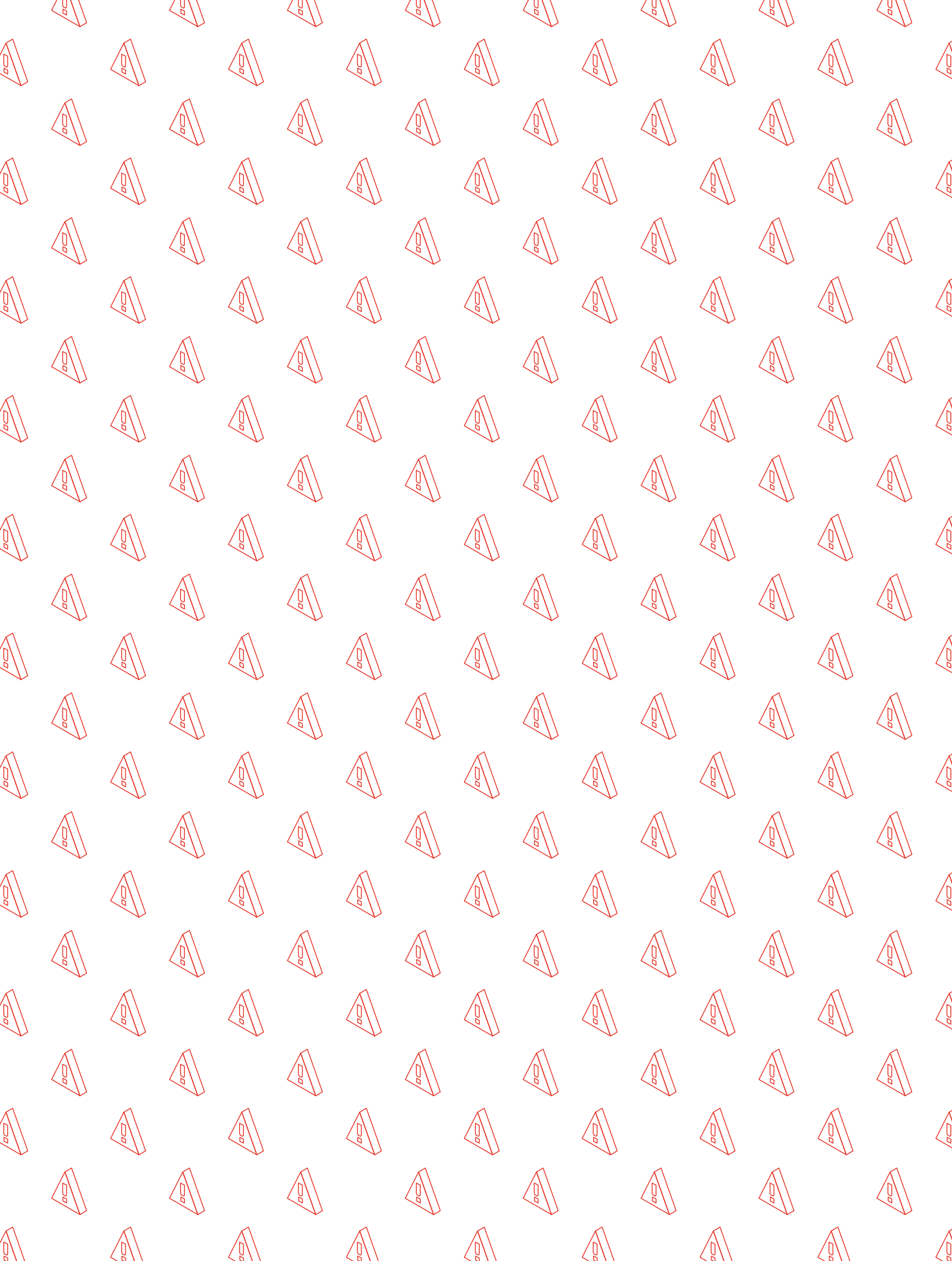
Open a web browser on your desktop or mobile device (e.g., tablet), visit [g.co/MindfulMountain](https://g.co/MindfulMountain).

## Discussion topics



Have your students play Mindful Mountain and use the questions below to prompt further discussion about the lessons learned in the game. Most students get the most out of the experience by playing solo, but you can also have students pair up. This may be valuable especially for younger learners.

- Of all the posts you shared in the game, which type do you think you would share most often in real life? Why?
- Describe a time when you may have accidentally shared something that you shouldn't have.
- Why do you think the character in Mindful Mountain is called an oversharer?
- Describe the oversharer's character and how his actions affect the game.
- Did playing Mindful Mountain change the way you will think about sharing with others online in the future?
- Name one thing you will do differently after joining in these lessons and playing the game.
- What is one example of a possible negative consequence from sharing something with the public instead of just your friends?
- What steps can you take if you accidentally share something personal? What about if someone accidentally shares something too personal with you?



# Do not Fall for Fake

Steering clear of scammers, fakers, info that does not help and other Internet stuff that tries to trick your brain—and learning how to find the good stuff

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lesson overview</b>     | <p>Lesson 1    <b>Popups, catfishing and other scams</b>    Grades 2–6</p> <p>Lesson 2    <b>Who is this ‘talking’ to me?</b>    Grades 2–6</p> <p>Lesson 3    <b>Is that really true?</b>    <b>ML</b> Grades 2–6</p> <p>Lesson 4    <b>Spotting untrustworthy information online</b>    <b>ML</b> Grades 4–6</p> <p>Lesson 5    <b>If we were a search engine</b>    <b>ML</b> Grades 2–6</p> <p>Lesson 6    <b>Practising Internet search</b>    <b>ML</b> Grades 2–6</p> <p>Lesson 7    <b>Interland: Reality River</b>    Grades 2–6</p> |
| <b>Themes</b>              | <p>It is important for children to understand that contacts or content they encounter online are not necessarily true or reliable, and could involve efforts to trick them or steal their information, identity or property. Online scams aim to get Internet users of all ages to respond to fraudulent posts and pitches—sometimes from people pretending to be someone they know.</p>  |
| <b>Goals for students</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Understand</b> that what people tell you online is not necessarily true.</li> <li>✓ <b>Learn</b> how scams work, why they are a threat, and how to avoid them.</li> <li>✓ <b>Determine</b> the validity of information and messages online and be wary of manipulation, unsubstantiated claims, fake offers or prizes and other online scams.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Standards addressed</b> | <p><b>ISTE Standards for Educators:</b> 1a, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4b, 5a, 6a, 6d, 7a</p> <p><b>ISTE Standards for Students 2016:</b> 1c, 1d, 2b, 2d, 3b, 3d, 7b, 7c</p> <p><b>AASL Learning Standards:</b> I.b.1, I.c.1, I.c.2, I.c.3, I.d.3, I.d.4, II.a.1, II.a.2, II.b.1, II.b.2, II.b.3, II.c.1, II.c.2, II.d.1, II.d.2., III.a.1, III.a.2, III.a.3, III.b.1, III.c.1, III.c.2, III.d.1, III.d.2, IV.a.1, IV.a.2, IV.b.3, V.a.2, VI.a.1, VI.a.2, VI.a.3</p>   |

# Do not Fall for Fake

## Vocabulary

### Lessons 1 and 2

**Catfishing:** Creating a fake identity or account online to trick people into friending them or sharing their personal information.

**Malicious:** Words or actions intended to be cruel or hurtful. This word can also refer to harmful software intended to do damage to a person's device, account, or personal information.

**Phishing:** An attempt to scam you or trick you into sharing your login or other personal information online. Phishing is done through email, social media, texts, ads or web pages that look similar to ones you are already used to but are fake.

**Scam:** A dishonest attempt to make money by tricking people into sharing their login, personal info, contacts, etc. or tricking people out of their money or digital property .

**Smishing (or SMiShing):** A scam that uses text messages to trick you into doing something, like share a login or other personal info, click on a link to a bad site or download bad software.

**Spearphishing:** A phishing scam where an attacker targets you more specifically by using pieces of your own personal information.

**Trustworthy:** Able to be relied on to do what is right or what is needed.

### Lesson 3

**Credible:** Believable; someone who is credible uses evidence, and you can be confident they are telling the truth.

**Expertise:** Special skill or knowledge about a particular thing; experts have expertise

**Motive:** The reason that someone does something; intention.

**Source:** Someone or something that provides information.

**Vlogger:** A person who is known for regularly posting short videos on a blog or social media.

### Lesson 4

**Deceptive:** False; an action or message designed to fool, trick or lie to someone.

**Deceptive news:** News that intentionally lies or distorts the truth—the popular name for it these days is “fake news”.

**Disinformation:** False information intended to trick or mislead you .

**Evidence:** Facts or examples that prove something is true or false.

**Misinformation:** False Information.

**Skeptical:** Willing to question claims of truth.

### Lessons 5 and 6

**Clickbait:** Content that attracts attention and could push you to click on a link to a certain site by using interesting formatting or catchy phrases.

**Keyword:** A word directly related to the topic of your Internet search—one of the words you really need to do your search because no other word describes your topic better.

**Query:** A keyword, set of keywords or a question you type into a search window (or box) to find information online. Sometimes a search takes more than one query to find what you're looking for.

**Search engine/Internet search:** A software program or “tool” people use to find information—including locations, photos and videos—on the Web.

**Search results:** A collection of information you get in a search engine after you type your query and hit the “Search” or “Send” button.



## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 1

# Popups, catfishing and other scams

A game where students study various messages and texts and try to decide which messages are legit and which are scams.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Learn** techniques that people use to scam other people online or on devices.
- ✓ **Review** ways to prevent online theft.
- ✓ **Know** to talk to a trusted adult if they think they're a victim of an online scam.
- ✓ **Recognize** the signs of scam attempts.
- ✓ **Be careful** about how and with whom they share personal info.

### Let us talk



#### What is a scam, anyway?

A scam is when someone tries to trick you so they can steal something—like your login, personal information, money or digital property. Scammers sometimes pretend to be someone you trust, and they can show up in a popup, webpage, text or even a fake app in ad or app stores. Their messages—and the unsafe pages they try to send you to—can also put viruses on your device. Some use your contact list to target your friends and family with the same kind of attack. Other types of scams might try to trick you into downloading a bad app by looking like the real one or bad software by telling you there is something wrong with your device.

Remember: A texter, website or ad cannot tell if there is anything wrong with your device or computer! So if they say there is something wrong, they are trying to scam you.

Also remember (you may have heard this before, but it is good): If you get a message from someone you do not know or even think you **might** know, and it sounds fantastic, exciting, or a little too good to be true, it is very probably exactly that (too good to be true).

**A note to the teacher:** *You could ask the class if they have ever heard that, get a show of hands, then ask them if they have ever seen a message like that themselves—or if a family member has. If not, GREAT, and if it happens in the future, they know how to protect themselves, their family and their stuff.*

Some scams are obviously fake. Others can be sneaky and really convincing—like when a scammer sends you a message that includes some of your personal information. That is called spearphishing, and it can be very hard to spot because using your info can make it seem like they know you. Another kind, which you have probably heard of, is catfishing—when someone creates a fake page or profile pretending to be someone you know or you are a fan of so they can trick you. Then there is smishing (scams in text messages) and phishing (in email).

So before you do what someone asks—like, click on a link or share your login—it is a good idea to ask yourself some questions about that message. Here are some questions you could ask:

Continued on the next page →

- If it is from a business, does it look professional, with the product's or company's usual logo and text that does not have spelling errors?
- It is never a good idea to click to a website from the message, but you can go to your web browser, search for the business and click to it from search, then ask yourself: Does the site's URL match the product's or company's name and information you are looking for? Are there misspellings?
- Is the message coming in the form of really annoying spammy popups?
- Does the URL start with https:// with a little green padlock to the left of it? (That is good, it means the connection is secure.)
- What is in the fine print? (That is sometimes where they put sneaky stuff, if they bother to. It is also not good if there is **no** fine print.)
- Is the message offering something that sounds too good to be true, like a chance to make money, get a better digital thing for your avatar or character, become famous, etc.? (It is almost **always** too good to be true.)
- Does the message sound just a little bit weird? Like they are saying they know you and you think it is possible, but you are not completely sure?

And what if you do fall for a scam? Start with this: Do not panic! Many people do.

- Tell your parent, teacher or other adult you trust right away. The longer you wait, the worse things could get.
- Change your passwords for online accounts.
- If you do get tricked by a scam, let your friends and people in your contacts know right away, because they could get that tricky message next.
- Report the message as spam, if possible.

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Handout: "Phishing examples" (answers provided on page 39)

**Possible modification for grades 2-3:** Divide the class into 5 groups and assign one example from the worksheet to each group. After each group has had a chance to analyze the example, discuss as a class.

### 1. Divide class into groups

### 2. Each group studies examples

Let us divide into groups, and each group study these examples of messages and websites.

### 3. Individuals indicate choices

Decide "real" or "fake" for each example, and list reasons why below it.

### 4. Groups discuss choices

Which examples seemed trustworthy and which ones seemed suspicious? Did any answer surprise you? If so, why?

**Answers to student handout:  
“Phishing examples”**

1. **Real.** The message asks the user to go to the company’s website and sign into their account on their own, rather than providing a link in the message or asking you to email your password (links can send you to malicious websites).
2. **Fake.** Suspicious and not secure URL
3. **Real.** Note the https:// in the URL
4. **Fake.** Suspicious offer in exchange for bank details
5. **Fake.** Not secure and suspicious URL
6. **Fake.** Not secure and suspicious URL
7. **Fake.** Not secure and suspicious URL and suspicious offer in exchange for bank details

**5. Further discussion**

Here are some more questions to ask yourself when assessing messages and sites you find online:

• **Does this message look right?**

What is your first instinct? Do you notice any untrustworthy parts? Does it offer to fix something you did not know was a problem?

• **Does this app look right?**

Sometimes fake apps—apps that look a whole lot like real ones—get advertised in website popups or show up in app stores. There are all kinds of nasty things they do if they are downloaded to a phone—steal your information or contacts, install bad software, etc. Look out for spelling mistakes, a tiny number of user review or sloppy (not very professional) graphics.

• **Is the message offering you something for free?**

Free offers usually are not really free—the senders usually want to get something from you.

• **Is it asking for your personal information?**

Some scammers ask for personal info so they can send you more scams. For example, quizzes or “personality tests” could be gathering facts to make it easy to guess your password or other secret information. Most real businesses will not ask for personal information in a message or from anywhere except their own websites.

• **Is it a chain message or social post?**

Texts and posts that ask you to forward them to everyone you know can put you and others at risk. Do not do it unless you are sure of the source and sure the message is safe to pass on.

• **Does it have fine print?**

At the bottom of most documents you will find the “fine print.” This text is tiny and often contains the stuff you are supposed to miss. For example, a headline at the top might say you have won a free phone, but in the fine print you will read that you actually have to pay that company \$200 per month. No fine print at all can be just as bad, so definitely pay attention to that too.

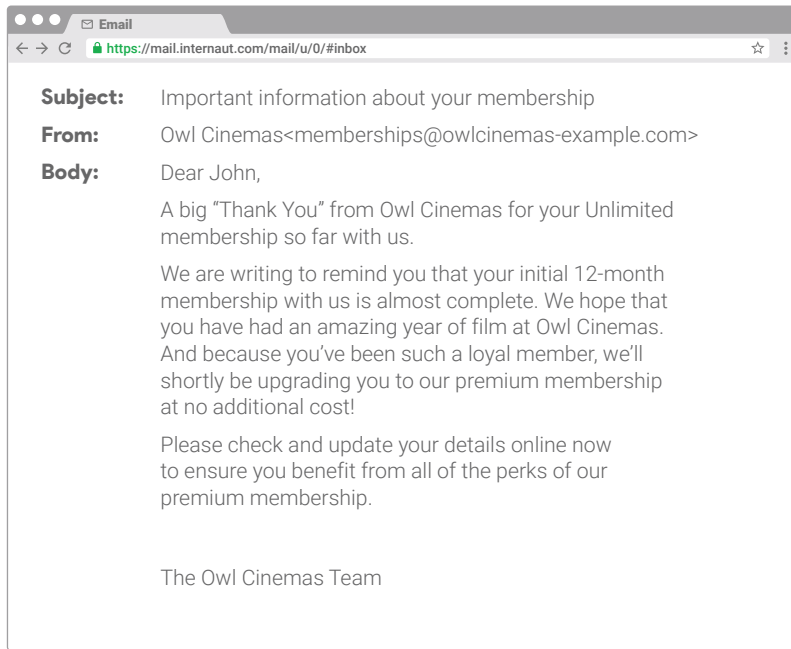
*Note: For the purposes of this exercise, assume that Internaut mail is a real, trusted service.*

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**Takeaway**

When you are online, always be on the lookout for scams in games, webpages, apps and messages—and know that if it sounds fabulous or a way to get something for free, it is probably fake. And if you do get fooled, make sure you tell an adult you trust right away.

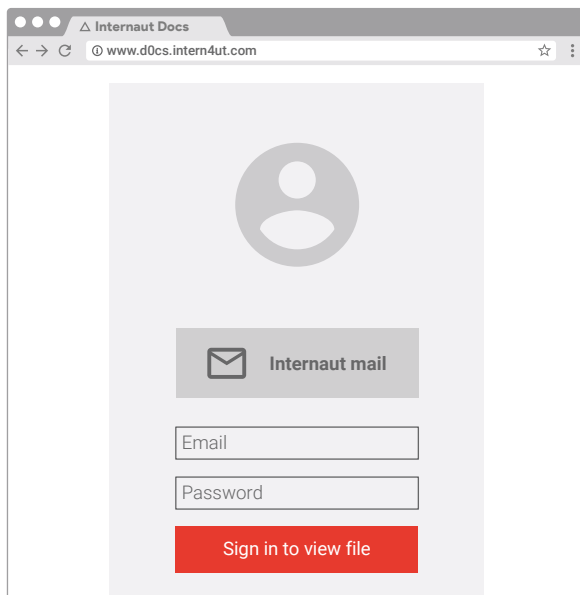
# Phishing examples



1. Is this real or fake?

Real

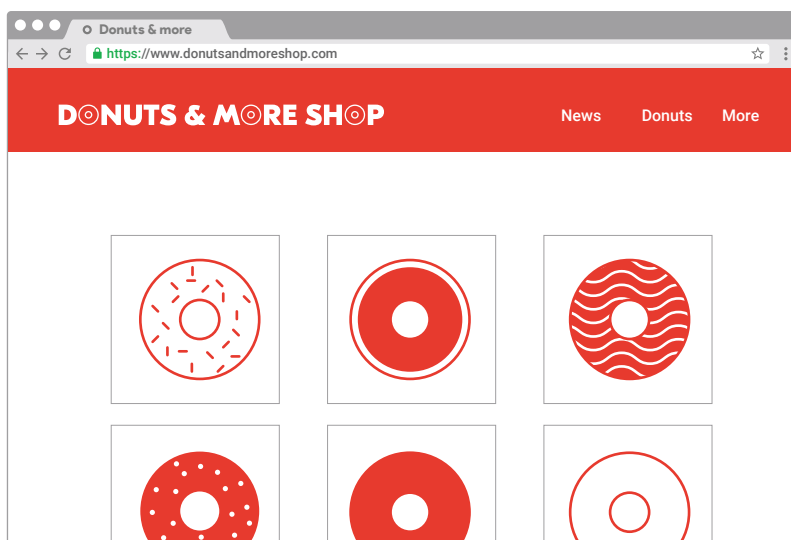
Fake



2. Is this real or fake?

Real

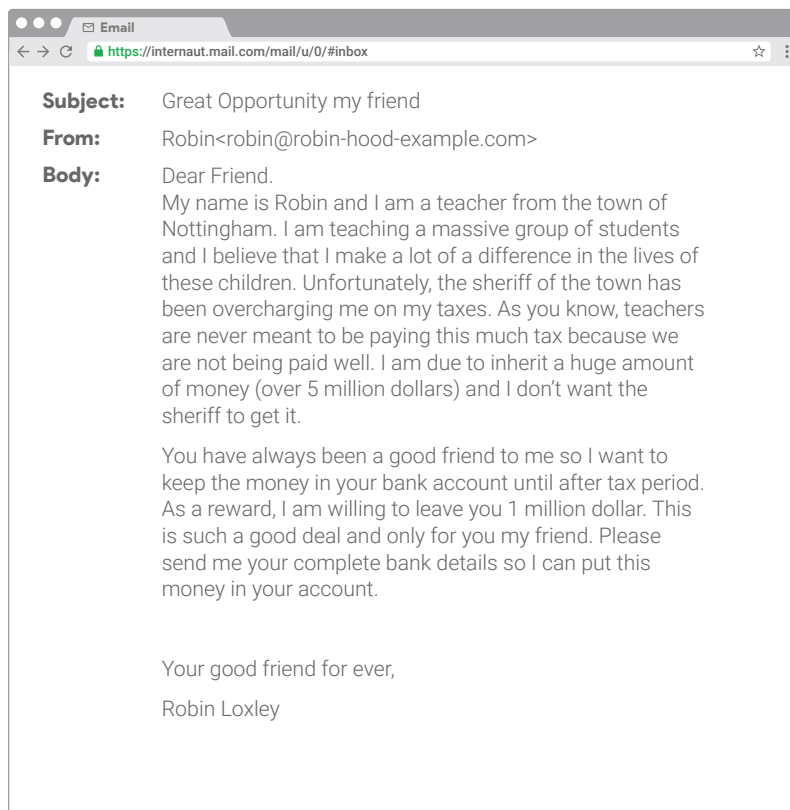
Fake



3. Is this real or fake?

Real

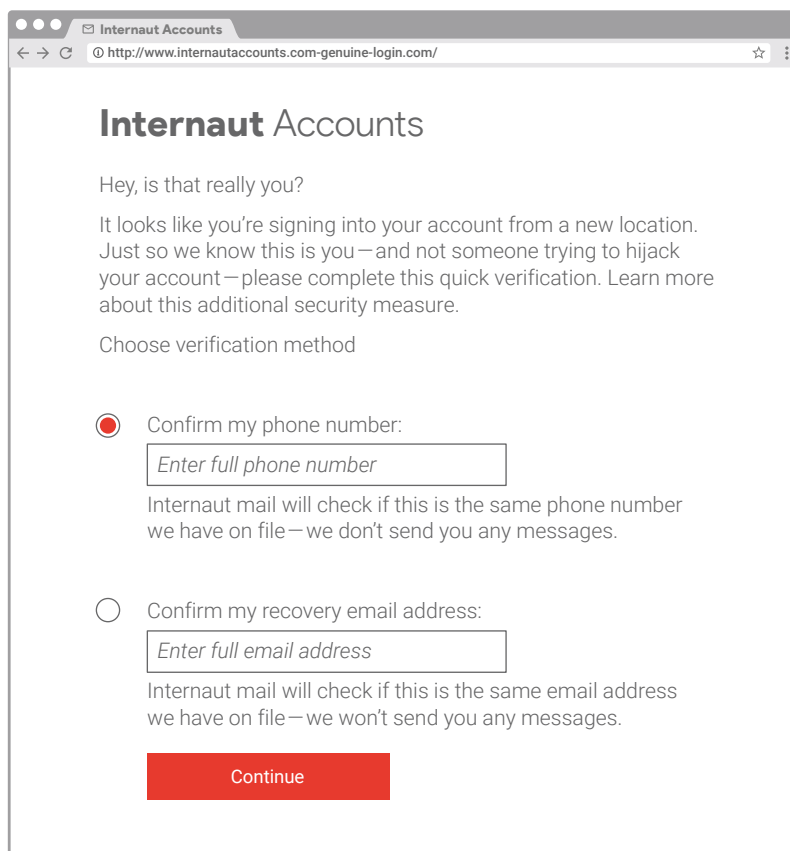
Fake



#### 4. Is this real or fake?

Real

Fake



#### 5. Is this real or fake?

Real

Fake

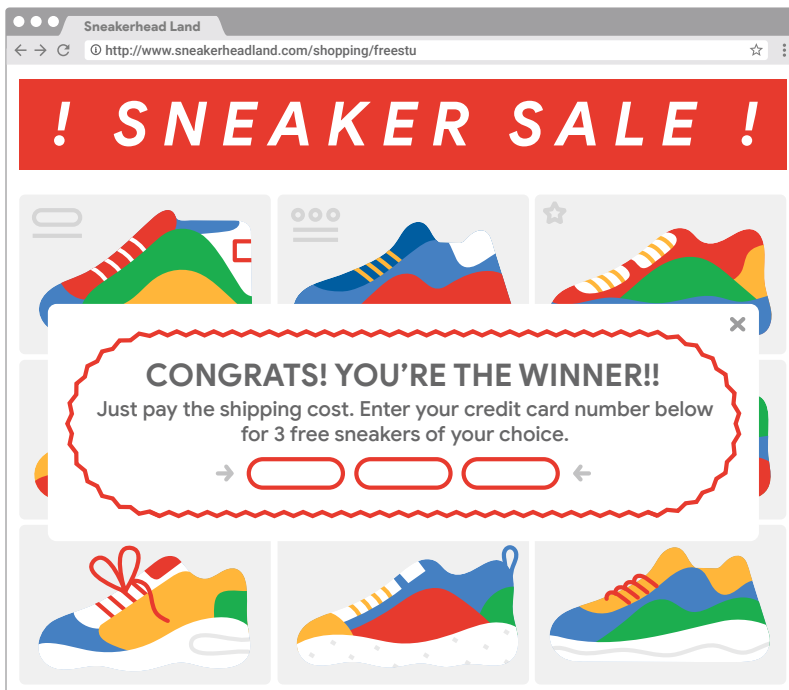
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6. Is this real or fake?

Real

Fake



7. Is this real or fake?

Real

Fake

## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 2

# Who is this 'talking' to me?

Students practice their anti-scam skills by acting out—and discussing possible responses to—suspicious online messages, posts, friend requests, apps, pictures and email.

**About this lesson:** *Because it is about social interaction, this lesson would seem to be for students in upper elementary grades (5–6), but because more and more children aged 7–9 are playing online games, many of them with other players rather than solo, this lesson is good preparation even for grades 2–3. We hope teachers in those grade levels will find out if their students are gaming and, if so, what they love about it and whether they have experienced anything sketchy. To maximize learning, just keep it light, open and judgment-free.*

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** that people contacting us may not be who they say they are.
- ✓ **Be sure** the person is who they say they are before replying.
- ✓ **Ask** questions or get help from an adult if it is hard to tell who the person is.

### Let us talk



#### How do you know it's really them?

When you are on the phone with your friend, you can tell it's them by the sound of their voice, even though you cannot see them. The online world is a little different. Sometimes it's harder to be sure someone is who they say they are. In apps and games, people sometimes pretend to be someone else as a joke, to get something from you or to be mean. Other times, they impersonate people to steal personal information or digital property like skins or game money. The safest thing to do is not to respond or to tell a parent or other adult you trust that you do not know the person trying to connect with you. But if you decide it is okay to respond, it is a really good idea to see what you can find out about them first. Check their page or profile, see who their friends are or search for other information that tells you they are who they say they are.

There are many ways to verify someone's identity online. Here are a few examples to get us started.

**A note to the teacher:** *You might consider leading a class brainstorm on the question "How do we verify a person's identity online?" first; then continue the conversation with these thought starters.*

#### • If there is a photo of the message sender, is it a little suspicious?

Is their photo blurry or hard to see? Or, is there no photo at all, like a bitmoji or cartoon character's face? Bad photos, bitmojis, photos of pets, etc. make it easy for a person to hide their identity in social media. It's also common for scammers to steal photos from a real person in order to set up a fake profile and pretend to be them. If there is a photo, can you find more photos of the person with that name online?

Continued on the next page →

- **Does their screen name contain their real name?**

On social media, for instance, does their screen name match a real name? (For example, Jane Doe's profile has a URL like SocialMedia.com/jane\_doe.)

- **Does their page have info about them?**

If so, does it sound like it was written by a real person? Fake accounts might not have much "About Me" information, or might have a bunch of information copied or pulled together randomly to create a fake profile. Is there anything in their info that you can confirm by searching for it with the name on the profile?

- **How long has the account been active? Does the activity make sense to you?**

Is the page or profile new, or does it show a lot of activity going back a ways? Does the person have mutual friends with you, like you would expect? Fake accounts usually do not have much content or signs of other people posting, commenting, and socializing in them.

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Who is this 'talking' to me?" cut into strips, with one scenario on each strip
- A bowl or container to hold the strips (each group of students will pick one)
- Student outline on page 46 (one per student to follow along)

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### 1. Groups review scenarios

Okay, now we are going to separate into 5 groups. Each group will pick a scenario from this container.

**2. Groups choose one or more responses** from the cheat sheet and talk about why you picked that response to the situation. Feel free to write more messages that you think would be even trickier.

### 3. Class discusses groups' choices

Finally, let's use this cheat sheet for class discussion about all the scenarios. Each group reads its scenario and tells the class about their response and why they chose it (or them). The class discusses.

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## Takeaway

You control who you talk to online. Make sure the people you connect with are who they say they are!



# Who is this 'talking' to me?

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## Scenario 1

You get a friend request from a random player in a game: "Hey you're good! We should play together! Add me?"

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## Scenario 2

You get a text message on your cell phone from someone you don't recognize. "Hey, this is Kendi! Remember me from last summer?"

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## Scenario 3

You get a message from someone you don't follow. "Hey! Love your posts, you're SO funny! Give me your phone number and we can talk more!"

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## Scenario 4

You get a chat from someone you don't know. "I saw you in the hall today. U R CUTE! What is your address? I can come over 2 hang out."

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## Scenario 5

You receive a message online. "Hey, I just met your friend Sam! She told me about you, I want 2 meet u. Where do u live?"

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# Who is this ‘talking’ to me?

Here are five scenarios of messages anyone could get online or on their phone. Each one has a list of ways you could respond, some great and others not so much. See which one (or two) makes the most sense to you—or if you think of other responses. Now talk about it, then we shall discuss it as a class.

**Everybody please note:** *If one of these scenarios really happens to you and you are not sure what to do, the easiest response is no response. You can always ignore them or block them. Also, it never hurts to talk with a parent or teacher about it, especially if it bothers you.*

## Scenario 1

You get a friend request from a random player in a game: “Hey you’re good! We should play together! Add me?” What do you do?

- **Ignore it.** If you do not know them, you can just decide not to add them.
- **Block them.** You will not get any more messages from them—and, in most games and apps, they will not even know you blocked them.
- **Change your settings.** Go into the game’s settings, see if you can turn off all friend requests and check that box. That way, you will not even have to decide whether or not to accept requests from random players.
- **Check them out online.** See if they have a page or profile so you can see if they are really a player—do they have experience, followers, have they streamed content? Do your friends know if they are for real? Only if they look like they are a gamer really into this game should you even consider friending them. But it is really best for children just to play with their offline friends.
- **Add them to your friends list.** If they seem ok. This is not recommended, unless you have verified who they are and checked with an adult you trust or at least your friends, to see if they know who the person is. If you play with them, with a mic or headset, be sure to keep the chat only about the game—never share your full name or any other personal info.
- **Give them personal info.** Definitely not. **You** know: Never ever give away personal information to people you do not know.

## Scenario 2

You get a text message on your cell phone from someone you don’t recognize. “Hey, this is Kendi! Remember me from last summer?” What do you do?

- **Block Kendi.** This would feel rude if you actually know her. But if you are sure you did not meet anyone named Kendi last summer or she is sending you too many texts and oversharing about herself, it would be fine to block her.

- **Ignore Kendi.** Like we said above, if you don't know this person, you can just not respond.
- **"Hi, Kendi. Do I know you?"** This is a safe option if you are not sure whether you met her and want to figure out if you did by finding out a little more. But don't tell Kendi where you were last summer!
- **"I don't remember you but we can still meet sometime."** Really not a good idea; you should never offer to meet with anyone you do not know.

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### Scenario 3

You get a direct message from @socccergirl12, someone you do not follow. "Hey! Love your posts, you are SO funny! Give me your phone number and we can talk more!" What do you do?

- **Ignore @socccergirl12.** You don't have to respond if you don't want to.
- **Block @socccergirl12.** If you find this person strange and block them, you will never hear from them again—unless they start a new fake profile and contact you as a different fake person...
- **"Hi, do I know you?"** If you are not sure, be sure to ask questions before giving out personal information like your phone number.
- **"Okay, my number is..."** Don't! Even if you have verified who this person is, it is not a good idea to give out personal information over social media. Find another way to get in touch, whether it is through parents, teachers, or some other trusted person.

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### Scenario 4

You get a chat from someone you don't know. "I saw you in the hall today. U R CUTE! What is your address? I can come over 2 hang out." What do you do?

- **Ignore.** Probably a good choice.
- **Block this person.** Do not hesitate if you get a bad feeling about someone.
- **"Who are you?"** Probably not. If the message sounds sketchy, it might be better not to answer—or just block them.
- **"Is that you Lizi? U R CUTE too! I live in 240 Circle Ct."** This is not a good idea, even if you think you know who it is. Before you give someone your address or any other personal information, check them out, even if you think you know them. Never meet someone in person that you only know from online interactions.

Continued on the next page →

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## Scenario 5

You receive this message: "Hey, I just met your friend Sam! She told me about you, I want 2 meet u. Where do u live?" What do you do?

- **Ignore.** If you do not know this person but you do have a friend named Sam, the best thing to do is check with Sam first before responding to this message.
- **Block.** If you do not know this person and you do not have a friend named Sam, it is probably best to use your settings to block this person from contacting you further.
- **"Who are you?"** Probably not a great idea. If you do not know the person, it is better not to answer, at least until you have heard back from Sam.

## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 3

# Is that really true?

**Media literacy background for teachers:** *In addition to helping students use analytical questions to evaluate source credibility, we also want them to understand that information comes from many places (not just textbooks). So they need to apply their skills to analyze all types of media. When they get to that point, they are ready to move on to analyzing special categories of media, like news or scientific data.*

*Note: This is a media literacy lesson good for everybody to learn but may be a little over the heads of students in grades 2-3, so see a suggested modification below under "Activity."*

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Identify** the tools you already use to know that information is **credible**.
- ✓ **Consider** how certain things like **expertise** and **motive** affect credibility.
- ✓ **Learn** 4 questions for evaluating source credibility.
- ✓ **Understand** that a source that is credible on one topic is not necessarily credible on other topics.
- ✓ **Know** that checking multiple sources often helps you see whether information is credible.

### Let us talk



#### What makes something or someone credible or trustworthy?

Every day you make decisions about what to believe and what not to believe. Was that video you saw credible? Was it trying to persuade you of something? Is your older brother telling you the truth or teasing? Is that rumor you heard about a friend true?

What do you do when you're trying to decide if someone is telling the truth? Do you already use these clues?:

#### • What you know about a person

For example, you know if a classmate is really good at something or has a history of being truthful or playing practical jokes or being mean, so you can usually tell when they are serious or joking or lying.

#### • What a person knows about you

For example, your parents know what kinds of foods give you a stomachache; the ads on TV do not, so you follow your parents' advice about what to eat. The school librarian knows your interests and what kinds of books you like, so you trust her book recommendations.

#### • Tone of voice and facial expression

For example, you know that your friend means the opposite of the words they say if they roll their eyes and act snarky while they tell you they had a **terrible** time at the new skate park.

#### • The situation

For example, when friends are playing around and one teases you about your new haircut, you know it is just a joke. But if someone at school says the exact same words to embarrass you in front of the whole class, it is an insult.

Continued on the next page →

When we hear things from a media source like a video, a person on TV, or website, we don't personally know the source and they don't know us. We may not be sure about whether to believe them.

Even when someone we know sends us a text there are no clues from facial expressions or tone of voice, so we might not be sure what they mean. That is when we need to ask questions...

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Handout: "Deciding what is credible" (one per student)

**Recommended modification for grades 2-3:** *If you feel your students are ready to discuss whether a source is credible, complete steps 1 and 2 only.*

### 1. Evaluating sources

If you wanted a recommendation for a great new video game, would you ask your grandmother? Or, to ask it another way, is your grandmother a **credible** source for information on video games? A **credible** source is one that we can trust to give us accurate **and** relevant information.

Make a pro/con list to explain the benefits and drawbacks of asking your grandmother for video game advice.

Did your list look something like this?

| PRO   | CON  |
|---|--|
| Grandma loves me and wants me to be happy   | Grandma does not play video games and does not know much about them            |
| Grandma is pretty good at finding information when she does not know the answer herself | Grandma does not know which games I already have or what types of games I like |

If your list looked like that, you have just used two of the most common tools we have to decide if a source is credible: **motive** and **expertise**. "Expertise" is a special skill or knowledge about a particular thing; experts have expertise. "Motive" is someone's intention, the reason they say or do something.

Which item in the list gives you information about grandma's motives? Which items say something about her expertise? So is the grandma on this pro/con chart a credible source for information about which new video game to get? She would not lie, but it would probably be better to ask someone who cares about us **and** who also knows something about gaming and the types of games we like.

We may also know that Dad is a great cook but is clueless about fashion, our coach knows basketball but not gymnastics, or that Grandma can fix almost any toy but does not know anything about video games. **Just because a person is an expert on one thing does not make them an expert on everything.**

## 2. Make your own pros and cons list

If this is the first time you have thought about how you use **motive** and **expertise** as clues to decide which information sources are credible, you might want to practise some more.

Imagine that you want to know how to be a better soccer player. Make pro/con lists for these choices so you can decide if they are credible sources:

- your grandma
- a blog by a winning high school basketball coach
- the best player on your team
- a website that sells soccer shoes and gives advice
- Videos that teach soccer practice techniques

What do you notice about the strengths and weaknesses of each source?

- Is there one that knows how to teach, but may not be familiar with soccer skills?
- Is there one that is a soccer expert but may not know how to teach?
- Is there one whose advice always seems to include buying something from them?
- Is there one that knows soccer but does not know you or which skills you need to work on?

Discuss: Who would be a good source to go to and why do you think so?

**Credibility** is rarely an all-or-nothing call. Most sources have strengths and weaknesses. That's why **the very best answers often come from asking many sources** and comparing their answers.

## 3. Steps to consider

Credibility is not just about **who** we believe. It is also about **what** we believe. We get ideas about the world from all sorts of places, not just directly from people. A movie about a tsunami shows a giant wave—taller than a skyscraper—heading towards people on shore. Is that what tsunamis **really** look like? An ad implies that most scientists are men with crazy hair who wear thick glasses and white lab coats all the time. Is that true?

We can check out any source using the 3 Steps on the **Deciding what is credible** handout. They are about what we already know about motive and expertise.

### Step 1: Use common sense

**Ask:** Is it logical—does it make sense?

If a) what you are seeing does not make sense, b) you know it is not true from your own experience, or c) it just doesn't work with facts you already know, you don't have to take any additional steps. You are looking at a source that is not credible.

### Step 2: Ask questions

Not just any questions, but these four:

#### Expertise

##### a) Does this source know me or care about me?

The answer to this question depends on the information you are looking for. If you are checking some information about plastic water bottles polluting the ocean, it really doesn't matter if the source knows you or not. But if a site promises that you will love their new toy, it would need to know what kinds of toys, games, or activities you like for their promise to be credible.

##### b) Does this source know a lot about this topic? How did they learn what they know?

Some people think that the easiest way to find credible information is to ask a digital voice assistant. Digital assistants seem to know everything! Did you ever wonder how they can know all those answers? They use mathematical calculations (called "algorithms") to find answers.

For simple questions that only have one possible answer (like the temperature outside or the name of a celebrity famous for singing a particular pop song) they are usually a credible source. But if the question is complicated, it would be better to start with people or groups who have lots of experience or have earned awards or PhDs related to your topic. **Then** you can use a voice assistant to confirm that information (see Step 3).

#### Motive

##### c) What does this source want me to do or believe and why would they want me to do or believe that?

Does the source make money if you follow their advice? For example, do you think an influencer earns a fee if you buy the product they are wearing or talking about? Does a professional athlete wear a certain brand of shoe or shirt just because they like that brand or because they are paid to talk about it?

Money can often be one reason why you are seeing a logo or brand name in a video or ad—it can affect what the influencer or athlete is telling you (and what they are **not** telling you). They probably don't intend to hurt you, but it is possible that making money is more important to them than giving you all the facts or saying what is good for you.



#### d) Who benefits and who might be hurt if people believe this source?

This is not always easy to tell. Here is an example:

Imagine an ad for an app that promises to make you a better student.

- What are the possible benefits? The app maker would benefit if you buy the app because they would make money. And you might benefit if the app really helped you.
- Who might be hurt if you believed the ad? You might be wasting your money if you bought the app. You might also be spending time practicing the wrong things, and then actually do worse in school. Or you might rely on the app, which can only make guesses about what you need, instead of seeking help from your teacher, who actually knows what you need.

### Step 3: Confirm

**Ask:** Do other **credible** sources back up what this source says?

The job is not just to check **more** sources. It is to look for a variety of sources. If you cannot find a variety of credible sources that agree with the source you are checking, you should not believe that source.

### 4. Check your sources

Now that you understand, it is time to practice. Pick a question related to something you are covering in class or something you have seen online. Find a source that provides an answer to that question and, in small groups, use the questions on the handout to decide if the source is credible.

If you need some ideas, here you go:

- You need ideas for a birthday present for your friend. An ad for a local store claims their search tool, which has every item offered by the store, can help you find a gift for anyone on your list. Does that work for you?
- You are reading online reviews of a new pizza place and notice that three of the six 5-star reviews are from people with the same last name as the restaurant. Two others say it is the best pizza on the planet and one says it was not bad for a cheap slice. There are also fourteen negative comments. Would the positive reviews convince you to try their pizza?
- A pop up ad says that you are part of a very small group that has been selected to try a special “mermaid pill” that will give you the power to breathe underwater without scuba gear. All you have to do is send \$9.99 to cover shipping. Would you do it?
- You like a lot of the videos by a popular vlogger because they are funny, but they also say nasty things that you do not like about minority groups. Do you buy what they say because they are funny and really popular? Do you think that influences people?

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### Takeaway

Questions are our friends. When you ask good questions about sources **and** the information they provide, you will get much better information. The more sources you use, the better. And remember that a great source for one subject does not mean it is great for everything.

# Deciding what is credible

Helpful steps to identify credible from non-credible sources.

## Step 1

### Use common sense

Is it logical?

## Step 2

### Ask questions

Not just any questions, but these four:

#### Expertise

- Does this source know me or care about me (and does that matter)?
- Does this source know a lot about this topic? How did they learn what they know?

#### Motive

- What does this source want me to do or believe and why would they want me to do or believe that?
- Who benefits and who might be hurt if people believe this source?

## Step 3

### Confirm

Do other **credible** sources back up what this source says? Use online search—or work with your school media specialist in the library—to find other sources of information about your subject (the sources could be book or news or magazine articles, online or offline). Go through Steps 1 and 2 with them too—ask the same questions about these sources too. If they are giving you the same information about your subject, it is pretty likely they are confirming that your source is credible.

## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 4

# Spotting untrustworthy information online

**Media literacy background for teachers:** Media literacy questions and observation techniques give students tools to navigate their way through disinformation without getting stuck in arguments or hurting relationships with friends and family. But they need to ask questions and get used to applying critical inquiry to information that comes their way.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Identify** clues which indicate that a news or information source is deceptive.
- ✓ **Use** analytical questions and careful observation to evaluate source credibility.
- ✓ **Understand** the importance of checking credibility of the source before sharing their message.
- ✓ **Develop** the habit of analyzing **all** news and information, not just the stories we think are suspicious.

### Let us talk



Did you ever play one of those games where you hunt for mistakes hidden in a picture? Sometimes dealing with news is like that. There are many people and groups who are so passionate about what they believe that they twist the truth to get us to agree with them. When their twisting is disguised as a news story, that is disinformation.

Some people do not learn how to spot fake information, but they share it anyway. That is how it spreads. And when people make choices about the things they do or believe based on that disinformation, it can get really hard for people to listen to each other calmly, argue respectfully, understand each other better, and solve problems.

So, if something looks or sounds like news, how can we tell the difference between what's real or credible and what's fake or misleading? There are clues we can learn to spot it—tricks used by people who are trying to mislead you. And there are questions we can ask that help us spot stories that are not based on facts.

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Image: "What is Wrong with this picture"
- Handout: "Deciding what is credible" from Lesson 3 (page 54)
- Worksheet: "Spotting phony URLs"

### Answers for worksheet: "Spotting phony URLs"

#### Real:

[abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com)  
[bbc.com/news](http://bbc.com/news)  
[nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com)  
[nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)  
[washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)  
[usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com)

#### Fake:

[abcnews.com.co](http://abcnews.com.co)  
[abcnews-us.com](http://abcnews-us.com)  
[nbc.com.co](http://nbc.com.co)  
[nytimesofficial.com](http://nytimesofficial.com)  
[bbc1.site/business-news](http://bbc1.site/business-news)  
[washinqtonpost.com](http://washinqtonpost.com)  
[washingtonpost.com.co](http://washingtonpost.com.co)  
[usatosday.com](http://usatosday.com)

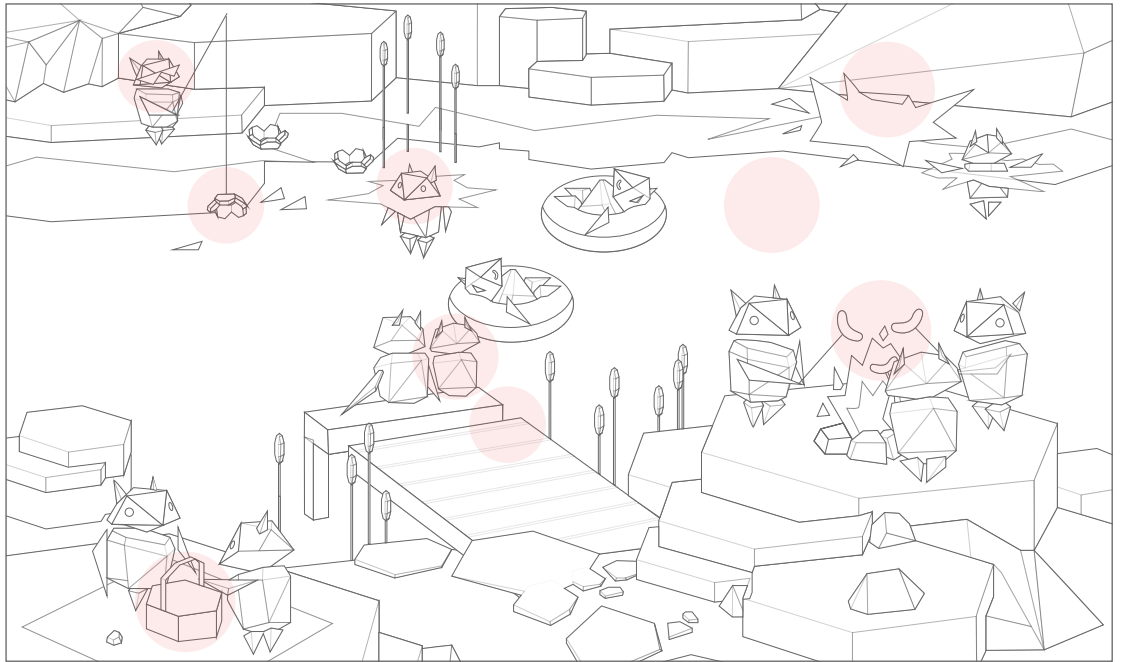
### 1. What is wrong with this picture?

Take a look at the image below. Look carefully. Can you spot the differences between the two pictures?



What if someone told you where to look? Would that make it easier?

There are 9 differences, did you spot them all?



Trying to tell if a news story is real or fake is sort of like this picture game. By looking really carefully, you can find important information. And it is a lot easier if you know what to look for.

So here are some clues to finding disinformation. If you spot these things, you are probably looking at a fake, or deceptive, story.

### Spotting phony URL's Handout

The first thing to look at is the URL (web address) for the site that published the story. Some fake sites try to fool you by choosing names that mimic a real site but with small differences. Most companies use short URLs because they are easier to remember and type, so URLs with added, unnecessary letters are often sites with false information.

Look at the handout:

- Circle all of the URLs that you think are real.
- When everyone is done, look at the answer key. Did you get them all right?

How could you check to see if a URL was a real news site? One way is to do a web search for the news organization or the URL. If the organization is credible, a box can appear to the right of the search results on many platforms with a description of the organization, including their website address. If the URL is not credible, you will often be able to scroll down and see headlines about the site being reported as a fake—or you will find out the site is not available anymore.

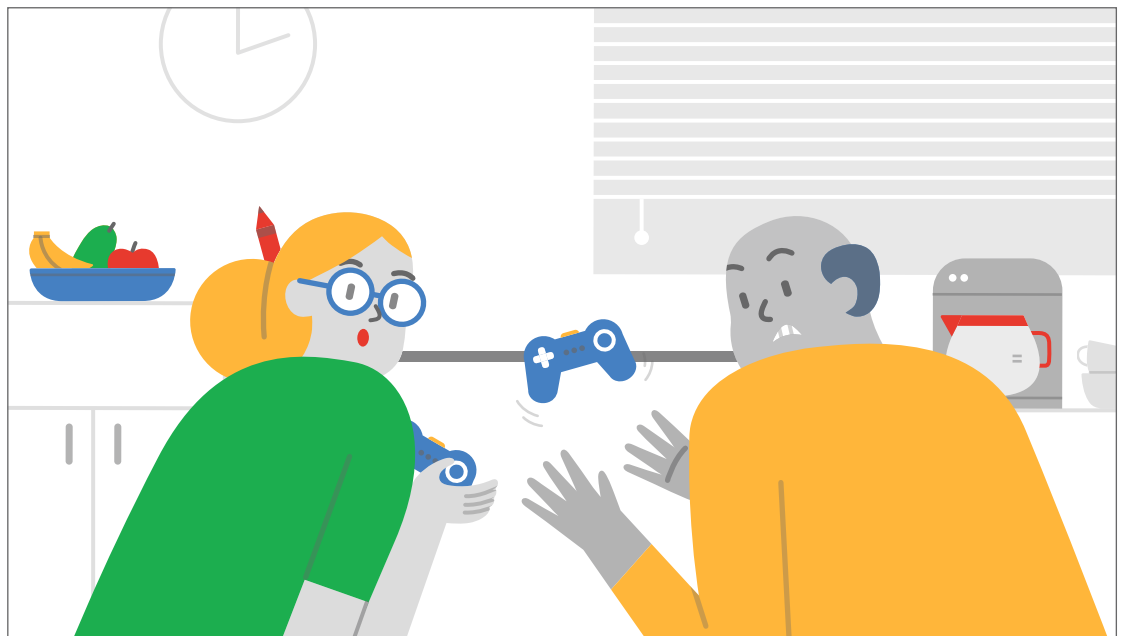
Continued on the next page →

## 2. Inspecting headlines

Sometimes someone shares a news story without a URL. In those cases, here are some clues to use:

- a) A story starts with a picture of something that would interest us, like a cute dog, a celebrity, or an unusual stunt. But when we click, the story has little or nothing to do with the picture.
- b) Instead of letting you decide for yourself, people who are trying to convince you to agree with them sometimes use things like **boldface**, ALL CAPS, underlining, or exclamation points to get you to think what you're seeing is important and click on them, called clickbait. Real journalists don't use those techniques.
- c) To get you to read a story, some people include words in the headline like "shocking" or "outrageous" or "surprising." They know words like that make us curious. But **real** journalists let the news speak for itself. They tell the story and let us decide if it is shocking or surprising.

For example, look at this picture and headline:



## The shocking truth about what teachers do after school

Without reading ahead, what do you imagine the story is going to say? Why do you think that? What's your evidence?

**Here is the story:**

"A recent State University survey of teachers found that 86% of teachers do what everyone does after work. They run errands, fix dinner, spend time with family, do household chores, and get ready for the next day. But lately, many teachers have been doing something unexpected.

A decade ago, economic troubles led many states to slash education budgets. That meant years without a pay raise for teachers. Unable to meet basic expenses on low salaries, many teachers now have second jobs. In some states teachers have even gone on strike for pay increases so they can quit second jobs and devote more time to their students."

Was the story what you thought it would be? Do you think that the picture and headline were accurate or misleading? What is your evidence?

**3. Inspecting sources**

When we analyze news, clues can be helpful, but they are not always enough. Sometimes trustworthy news stories use techniques to attract our attention, and that can make them seem fake. And sometimes fake sources are so good at copying the real thing that it is hard to tell they are not. It is hard to tell them apart. For example...

**Do these sound like trustworthy news organizations to you?:**

American News  
Nigerian Television Authority  
Rhythm TV  
The New Angle  
News Company of Nigeria  
NigeriaWatch33

Actually, only *Nigeria Television Authority* is real. How could you find that out? You could start by doing a Web search of the organization's name. See where the name appears besides the organization's own website. If it appears in Wikipedia or an article at a newspaper or news magazine's site, it is probably a credible organization. But see what those articles say about it! It's possible that they're all saying it's fake.

Find a story about your school, community, the latest diet fad, or anything in the news that interests you. Use the 3 Steps on the **Deciding what is credible** handout, along with the new clues you know, to decide if the story is real or deceptive.

### **Step 1: Use common sense**

**Ask:** Is it logical—does it make sense?

Sometimes it is obvious. If you see a headline like: **CELEBRITY HAS SECRET BABY WITH SPACE ALIEN**, logic probably tells you it is not real.

Sometimes it is not so obvious. If:

- a) what you are seeing does not make sense
  - b) you know it is not true from your own experience, or
  - c) it just does not work with facts you already know
- ...you are looking at a source that is probably fake news.

### **Step 2: Ask the expertise and motive questions**

(see pages 52 and 53)

### **Step 3: Confirm**

**Ask:** Do other **credible** sources back up what this source says?

Who else is reporting this story? (You can use Internet search to see if this story is covered by other news sources...) What other stories does the site include? Are they all from the same perspective or are there many views included? If you cannot find a variety of sources that are covering the story, you should be skeptical of that source.

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## **Takeaway**

Now that you know how to use clues and questions to spot disinformation, you can ask smart questions and make careful observation part of your daily routine and with time, you will be an expert in spotting fake stuff online. You now know how to analyze the information you get online. It is called critical thinking, and it is a media user's superpower.



# Spotting phony URLs

## Real or fake?

Circle the correct answer.

allafrica.com

Real

Fake

premiumtimes.ng

Real

Fake

dailytimesnigeria.com

Real

Fake

tribune.com

Real

Fake

skynews.ng

Real

Fake

bbc.com/pidgin

Real

Fake

## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 5

# If we were a search engine

Without using any technology (we shall do that in the next activity), students create “search results” together to start learning how Internet search works from the “inside out.”

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Learn** fundamentals of online search.
- ✓ **Search** for information about a topic.
- ✓ **Understand** that search results are collections of information, not usually answers to a question.

### Let us talk



#### What is search?

The internet is a place that has a gazillion (well, billions and billions of) pieces of information. Internet search, sometimes called a search engine, helps us narrow down that crazy amount of information that comes from all over the world. It is a software tool that people use to find information on all kinds of topics.

You might already know that, to use this tool, you type a few key words about a topic you want to know more about into the search bar (the empty box on a search engine page) or in your browser window (where you also type web addresses). Then, when you are ready, you hit the Return or Search key, and—voila!—the search engine works its magic (in about a half second), and you get your search results. Ok, so it is not **actually** magic. Internet search uses algorithms, which is a fancy way of saying people at the search company taught the software how to find and turn up information for you. Don't worry about how algorithms work for now. You just need to know that Search does the “searching” for you.

It is also good to know that search results are not necessarily answers to a question. They are just collections of information you are interested in or looking for. If you do have a question that you are taking to a search engine, you can often find an answer in your search results, but sometimes it takes a few queries to get to the answer you are looking for. That is called “refining” your search.

So let us practise how search works by pretending to be a search engine together...

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: “If we were a search engine” (one per student)

1. **Organize students** into groups of 2.
2. **Distribute a copy** of the worksheet to each student.
3. **Share a search topic** with the class. Here are some possibilities:

- |              |                |             |                |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| • pizza      | • solar system | • volcanoes | • basketball   |
| • landslides | • farmer       | • cooking   | • dentist      |
| • airplane   | • soccer       | • sharks    | • construction |

**4. Students work with their partners** to create possible “search results” in each category on the handout: “Website,” “Image,” “Map” and “Video.” Their results can be in the form of words or drawings, as appropriate.

*Encourage students to be creative, and make sure they know there are no “wrong” answers. For example, if the topic is “sharks,” students might brainstorm the following search results:*

- Website: information about different kinds of sharks
- Image: a drawing of a shark
- Video: sharks swimming through the ocean
- Map: the location of a beach where people saw a shark

**5. When students finish** all four search result categories for the given topic, pick which category (website, image, video or map) to talk about as a class.

**6. Have one student from each pair share** out their example of one of the search results.

*For example, let us say the topic is “pizza.” You can decide to have each group share their image results for pizza. Students can hold up their drawing and explain what they created. This allows students to see all the different search results that can be generated from a single query.*

**7. After students share examples, ask the class the following discussion questions:**

- About how many different results did we have?
- About how many results were similar?
- If I changed my topic to \_\_\_\_\_, how do you think that would change your results? For example, if the search topic was “pizza,” how would the results change if I changed my query to “**pepperoni** pizza”?

**Suggestion:** Complete 4 rounds in total...

- Choose a different topic from each round and repeat the same steps as listed above.
- Complete 4 rounds so you can have discussions about the 4 main types of search results.

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## Takeaway

Internet search is a tool you can use to find information online. The info can be in the form of text on a website, videos, images, maps and more. The key words you type into a search engine determine what results you get.

# If we were a search engine

Search Topic

Website

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Image | Video | Map

## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 6

# Practicing Internet search

Using an Internet connection, students explore using a search engine and practice creating ever more effective search queries.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Navigate** a search engine.
- ✓ **Practice** searching for information about a topic.
- ✓ **Create** search queries.
- ✓ **Change** keywords and notice differences in search results.

## Let us talk



Search is a tool that helps you find information on the internet. To use search, you can go to a search engine and type a query—a question or keywords—into the search bar to get info on a topic you want to know more about. Sometimes using keywords works better than just asking a question. That is because, first, **the words you use** in your query and, second, **the order you put them** in are really important. If you just ask a question, it may not have the words and the order that help the search engine turn up the results you're looking for. But—no worries—it is perfectly fine to start with a question if you like.

The important thing is, just start, because lots of times it takes more than one query to get to the information you want. So type your question into the search engine, look at the search results and—if they are not good enough—you can use those results to guide you on how to create a better query and get even closer to what you are looking for.

**For example:** Let us say I want to start a garden. I want to grow vegetables I can use to cook in my kitchen.

- I have no idea how to do this, so I'm going to do an Internet search to find out how. I go to a search engine and type in the question, "How do I start a garden?"

*Display your computer screen so students can see you searching.*

- Ok, let us take a look at these results.

*Review the results with your class. Be sure to point out that there are websites, images, videos and other types of results. Also point out search results that are not relevant to helping you grow a garden for vegetables and spices for cooking.*

- I'm noticing that many of these results are about all kinds of gardens, but I need information about creating a garden at home, in my own yard. Also, I only want to grow stuff I can eat. I should probably include a keyword about vegetables, right? Ok, let us try searching this: "home garden vegetables".

*Display your computer screen so students can see you searching.*

- Take a look at these results. What do you notice?

*Allow the students to share what they notice in the search results.*

Both sets of search results gave me information about starting a garden, right? But the first set was about all kinds of gardens. It showed me I had to add a couple of important keywords to my original query to get the search results I needed to learn how to start a garden for cooking (BTW, did you know that is called a "kitchen garden"?).

Continued on the next page →

The more you practice creating search queries, the easier search gets. You can always start with a question, and if you do not get your answer, the search results will give you keywords you can try to get closer to what you need to know. If you want to start with keywords and aren't sure which ones to use, just know that there are no wrong keywords. Just try some! You can always try a different query if you are not seeing the results you were hoping for. Let us try it out...

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Practicing Internet search" (one per student)
- Internet-connected device

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### 1. Create the first search query

Explain to students that they are going to explore using a search engine and practice creating search queries. On the handout, they will find four different characters, each character thinking (in a thought bubble) about something they want to learn more about. Then have your students...

- Type the original search query (provided on the handout) into the search engine, and explore the search results.
- Record 4–5 search results on their handout.

### 2. Create their own (second) search query

Have students look again at what the character wants to know (in the thought bubble). Ask students, did the original search results give enough information relevant to this topic?

- Direct students to change the original query to include keywords that will get them more useful search results.

*Hint: Students can look for keywords they found in the first search results or in the character's thought bubble.*

- Have them type this second search query into the search engine and explore the search results.
- Have students record 4–5 results on their handout.

### 3. Discuss

Have students find a partner and ask them to share with their partners how they changed the original search query and the types of results they got from that revised search query. Ask them to share what they discovered in a brief class discussion.

### 4. Repeat Steps 1–3 for the remaining characters

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## Takeaway

The more you practise creating search queries, the easier it will get to find the information you are looking for in a search engine.

# Practising Internet search

I'm looking for a book to read.  
I love mysteries! I also enjoy reading books that  
have imaginary characters that live in the future.  
I think my teacher calls that sci-fi.



## Original search query

Books about imaginary characters and mystery

## Search results

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## Revised search query

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## Search results

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I want to make a cake for my sister's birthday.  
She doesn't like chocolate but loves fruit.  
I wonder what kind of cake I can make.



## Original search query

No chocolate cake with fruit

## Search results

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## Revised search query

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## Search results

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**Original search query**

Video game jobs

**Search results**

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**Revised search query**

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**Search results**

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I love playing video games.  
I wonder what it would be like if I grew up  
and worked for a video gaming company.  
It would be so cool if that was my job someday!



**Original search query**

What do I need to fish?

**Search results**

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**Revised search query**

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**Search results**

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My cousin invited me to go fishing.  
I have never fished before so I don't know  
what kind of equipment I need to bring with me.





## Do not Fall for Fake: Lesson 7

# Interland: Reality River

The river that runs through Interland flows with fact and fiction. But things are not always as they seem. To cross the rapids, use your best judgment—and do not fall for the antics of the phisher lurking in these waters.

Open a web browser on your desktop or mobile device (e.g., tablet), visit [g.co/RealityRiver](https://g.co/RealityRiver).

### Discussion topics



Have your students play Reality River and use the questions below to prompt further discussion about the lessons learned in the game. Most students get the most out of the experience by playing solo, but you can also have students pair up. This may be especially valuable for younger students.

- Describe a time when you had to decide if something was real or fake online. What signs did you notice?
- What is a phisher? Describe its behaviour and how it affects the game.
- Did playing Reality River change the way you will evaluate things and people online in the future? If so, how?
- What is one thing that you think you will do differently after joining in on these lessons and playing the game?
- What are some clues that could signal that something is “off” or creepy about a certain situation online?
- How does it feel when you come across something questionable online?
- If you really are not sure whether something is real, what should you do?



# Secure Your Secrets

## Getting real about privacy and security

|                     |   |                               |            |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| Lesson overview     | Lesson 1  | But that wasn't me!           | Grades 2–6 |
|                     | Lesson 2  | How to build a great password | Grades 2–6 |
|                     | Lesson 3  | Keep it to yourself           | Grades 2–6 |
|                     | Lesson 4  | Interland: Tower of Treasure  | Grades 2–6 |
| Themes              | Anyone who uses a device that is connected to the Internet—a game, a phone, a digital assistant, a computer, etc.—needs to know the basics of online privacy and security. Protecting those devices and the personal information on them—all that stuff about you, your family and your friends—means thinking about what is incoming and outgoing and being smart about passwords. |                               |            |
| Goals for students  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Learn</b> why privacy and security matter and how they relate to each other.</li><li>✓ <b>Practice</b> how to create strong passwords and keep them to yourself (and the adults who watch out for you).</li><li>✓ <b>Review</b> the tools and settings that protect against scams, hackers and other threats.</li></ul>                  |                               |            |
| Standards addressed | <p><b>ISTE Standards for Educators:</b> 1a, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4b, 6a, 6d, 7a</p> <p><b>ISTE Standards for Students 2016:</b> 1c, 1d, 2b, 2d, 3d, 6a</p> <p><b>AASL Learning Standards:</b> I.b.2, I.c.1, I.c.3, II.c.1, III.a.2, III.b.1, III.c.1, III.d.1, III.d.2, IV.b.3, V.d.3, VI.a.1, VI.d.1</p>  |                               |            |



## Secure Your Secrets: Lesson 1

## But that wasn't me!

Students explore outcomes of sharing their passwords and the impact those actions can have.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Learn** that sharing your password gives others control of your digital footprint.
- ✓ **Consider** what can happen when someone logs in as you.
- ✓ **Understand** how someone else's actions can affect your digital footprint...and **you!**

## Let us talk

**What happens when you share your password?**

Think about a password you have created for some sort of app or device you use. Maybe it was a password to unlock your phone or to log into your favourite game or video app. Have you ever shared a password with someone else? Ok, let us be honest, many of us have. But there is an important reason why you really should not share your passwords...

You have something called a digital footprint. A digital footprint represents you online. It is what you leave online—likes, comments, your screen name, photos, messages, recordings, etc. that add up to and give other people an idea of who you really are. It affects your reputation, how people think of you. They make guesses, or assumptions, about you based on that footprint you leave. That is one thing really important to be aware of when you are online.

Another thing really important to know is that, when you share your password, you are giving someone else control of your digital footprint—you are actually allowing them to help create it and shape how other people think of you. Yikes, right?! Since it is your footprint, everybody believes you are the one creating it. So if someone with your password does something you don't like, people will think that was you doing it! That is why it is super important not to share your passwords.

**For example:** Let us say you share your password to a social media account with a friend. While logged in as you, your friend sends a message to someone in your class like, "Can you send me your homework answers?" The next day in class, the student goes to the teacher and says you were trying to cheat on your homework by asking for answers. Then they show your teacher the message your friend sent from your account. Who do you think your teacher will believe? How does this affect your reputation? What else might happen?

*Brainstorm with the class possible outcomes. Examples: Teacher calls home. You lose points on an assignment. Your digital footprint shows that you tried to cheat in school. You get into a fight with your friend who sent the message.*

Remember, your digital footprint represents you online. Any time you share your password with someone, you are giving them control of your digital footprint, which can impact how people see you on the Internet and everywhere else. Let us explore this idea together.

Continued on the next page →

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: “But that wasn’t me!” (one for each pair of students.)

### 1. Help students partner up.

### 2. Pick an account.

Students choose what type of account they are sharing a password for and fill it in at the top of the worksheet: social media account, gaming account, phone, tablet/ computer, or streaming service.

### 3. Pick an action.

Partners fill in the first box with an action they choose from the choices below—or think up themselves. This is an action taken by someone who has been given the password to their account. They can draw or write what they come up with **or** choose from these possible actions:

- “Likes” all of your crush’s recent posts.
- Buys \$100 worth of clothes.
- Sends a message like, “Don’t you think Carmen is so annoying?”
- Plays your favourite game but loses points.
- Downloads new apps.
- Shares an embarrassing picture on your social media page.
- Reads all your texts and shares them with someone else.
- Watches episodes of an inappropriate TV show.

### 4. Create an outcome

In the second box, students create a possible outcome to the action they chose or created.

### 5. Discussion

As a class, ask a few students to share out the action and outcomes that they created. Below are some questions you can ask partners after they share:

- Why did you pick (or create) that action?
- How did you decide on the outcome?
- If you knew this was the outcome, how would you change your action?

### 6. Digital Footprint

In the last box, students write one sentence of how this action and outcome impacts the feelings, life or digital footprint—any or all of those things. Guide students to think about how this affects their reputation, or how others view them. Ask for volunteers or choose pairs of students to discuss what they draw or wrote and what they think about the story they created.

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## Takeaway

When you share your password, you are giving someone else control of your digital footprint, but you are still accountable for whatever they do with it. If you want to be in the driver’s seat when it comes to how people see you online, do not share your passwords with anyone but a parent or other adult you totally trust.

# But that wasn't me!

I shared my password to:

☐ social media account

☐ gaming account

☐ phone

☐ tablet/computer

☐ streaming service

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Action

## Outcome

## Digital Footprint Impact

## Secure Your Secrets: Lesson 2

# How to build a great password

Students learn how to create a strong password—and then make sure it stays private after they create it.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Recognize** the importance of never sharing passwords, except with parents or guardians.
- ✓ **Understand** the importance of screenlocks that protect devices.
- ✓ **Know** how to create passwords that are hard to guess, yet easy to remember.
- ✓ **Choose** the right security for their login settings, including two-factor verification.

### Let us talk



#### Better safe than sorry

Digital technology makes it easy for us to communicate with friends, classmates, teachers and relatives. We can connect with them in so many ways: texts, games, posts and messages; with words, pics, and videos; using phones, tablets, laptops and digital assistants. (How do you connect with **your** friends?)

But the same tools that make it easy for us to share information can also make it easy for hackers and scammers to steal that information and use it to damage our devices, steal our identities or hurt our relationships and reputations.

Protecting ourselves, our info, and our devices means doing simple, smart things like using screen locks on phones, being careful about putting personal info on devices that are unlocked or used by lots of people (like at school) and, above all, building strong passwords—**and not sharing them!**

- Who can guess what the two most commonly used passwords are? (Answer: “1 2 3 4 5 6” and “password”)
- Let us brainstorm some other bad passwords and what specifically makes them bad. (Examples: your full name, your phone number, the word “chocolate,” your dog’s name, your address, etc.)

Who thinks these passwords are good? ;)

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- Internet-connected devices for students or groups of students
- A whiteboard or projection screen
- Handout: “Guidelines for creating strong passwords”

#### Here is an idea for creating an extra-secure password:

- Think of a fun phrase that you can remember. It could be your favourite song lyric, book title, line in a movie, etc.
- Choose the first letter or first couple letters from each word in the phrase.
- Change some letters to symbols or numbers.
- Make some letters uppercase and some lowercase.

Let us practise our new skills by playing the password game.

#### 1. Create passwords

We’ll split into teams of two. Each team will have 60 seconds to create a password.



**Challenge option:** Students share clues with the class first to see how much contextual information the class needs to be able to make an accurate guess.

## **2. Compare passwords**

Two teams at a time will write their password on the board.

## **3. Vote!**

For each pair of passwords, we shall all vote and discuss whose is stronger.

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## **Takeaway**

It is important and **fun** to create strong passwords.

# Guidelines for creating strong passwords

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Here are some tips for creating passwords to keep your information safe.

**Strong passwords** are based on a descriptive phrase or sentence that is easy for you to remember and hard for someone else to guess—like the first letters in words that make up a favourite title or song, the first letters of words in a sentence about something you did—and include a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. For example, “I went to Western Elementary School for grade 3” could be used to build a password like: lw2We\$t4g3.

**Moderate passwords** are passwords that are strong and not easy for malicious software to guess, but could be guessed by someone who knows you (for example, lwenttoWestern).

**Weak passwords** commonly use personal information like a pet’s name, are easy to crack, and can be guessed by someone who knows you (for example, “IloveBuddy” or “Ilikechocolate”).

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## DOs

- Use a different password for each of your important accounts.
- Use at least eight characters. The longer the better (as long as you can remember it!).
- Use combinations of letters (uppercase and lowercase), numbers, **and** symbols.
- Make your passwords memorable so you do not need to write them down, which would be risky.
- Immediately change your password if you think someone else knows it (besides a parent or guardian).
- Change your passwords every now and then.
- Always use strong screenlocks on your devices. Set your devices to automatically lock in case they end up in the wrong hands.
- Consider using a password manager, such as one built into your browser, to remember your passwords. This way you can use a unique password for each of your accounts and not have to remember them all.

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## DON'Ts

- Don't use personal information (name, address, email, phone number, Social Security number, mother's maiden name, birth dates or even a pet's name, etc.) in your password.
- Don't use a password that is easy to guess, like your nickname, chocolate, just the name of your school, favourite sports team, a string of numbers (like 123456), etc. And definitely don't use the word 'password'!
- Don't share your password with anyone other than your parent or guardian.
- Never write passwords down where someone can find them.

## Secure Your Secrets: Lesson 3

## Keep it to yourself

Teacher uses a school device to demonstrate where to look, and what to look for, when you are customizing your privacy settings.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Customize** privacy settings for the online services they use.
- ✓ **Make decisions** about information sharing on the sites and services they use.
- ✓ **Understand** what two-factor and two-step verifications mean and when to use them.

## Let us talk

**Privacy + security**

Online privacy and online security go hand-in-hand. Most apps and software offer ways to control what information we are sharing and how.

When you're using an app or website, look for an option like "My Account" or "Settings." That is where you will find the privacy and security settings that let you decide:

- What information is visible on your page or profile
- Who can view your posts, photos, videos or other content that you share

Learning to use these settings to protect your privacy—and remembering to keep them updated—will help you manage your privacy, security and safety.

In addition to setting, a really important thing to think about is who can friend or follow you (that may or may not be in your Settings). The safest choice is to have only your offline friends and family following you or on your friends list. If you allow other people, do not forget that whatever you share can be seen by people you have never met. That can get a little creepy, and sometimes parents just don't allow it at all. Talk it over with an adult you trust to figure out what is best for you—what keeps you safe and gives you the most peace of mind.

Your parents or guardians should **always** be making these decisions with you. Plus, it can be fun to go through your privacy settings together (so they can see how smart you are!).

## Activity

**Materials needed:**

- One school device hooked up to a projector and able to display an example account deemed appropriate for class demonstration (e.g., a temporary email or class account)

**Review options**

I have this school device hooked up to the projection screen. Let us navigate to the settings page of this app where we can see what our options are. Talk me through [encourage your students to help you]...

- Changing your password
- Making your page or online profile—including photos and videos—public or private (visible only to the family and friends you choose)
- Going through your location and other settings—which ones are best for you?
- Getting alerts if someone tries to log in to your account from an unknown device
- Getting an alert when somebody tags you

Continued on the next page →

- Enabling two-factor or two-step verification
- Setting up recovery information in case you get locked out of your account
- Reporting problems

Which privacy and security settings are right for you is something to discuss with your parent or guardian. But remember, the most important security setting is in your brain—as you grow up, more and more you will be the one deciding how much of your personal info to share, when, and with whom. So it is important to get used to making these decisions right now.

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## Takeaway

Choosing a strong, unique password for each of your important accounts is a great first step. Now, you need to remember your passwords and keep them private too.

## Secure Your Secrets: Lesson 4

# Interland: Tower of Treasure

Mayday! The Tower of Treasure is unlocked, leaving the Internaut's valuables like contact info and private messages at high risk. Outrun the hacker and build a fortress with strong passwords to secure your secrets once and for all.

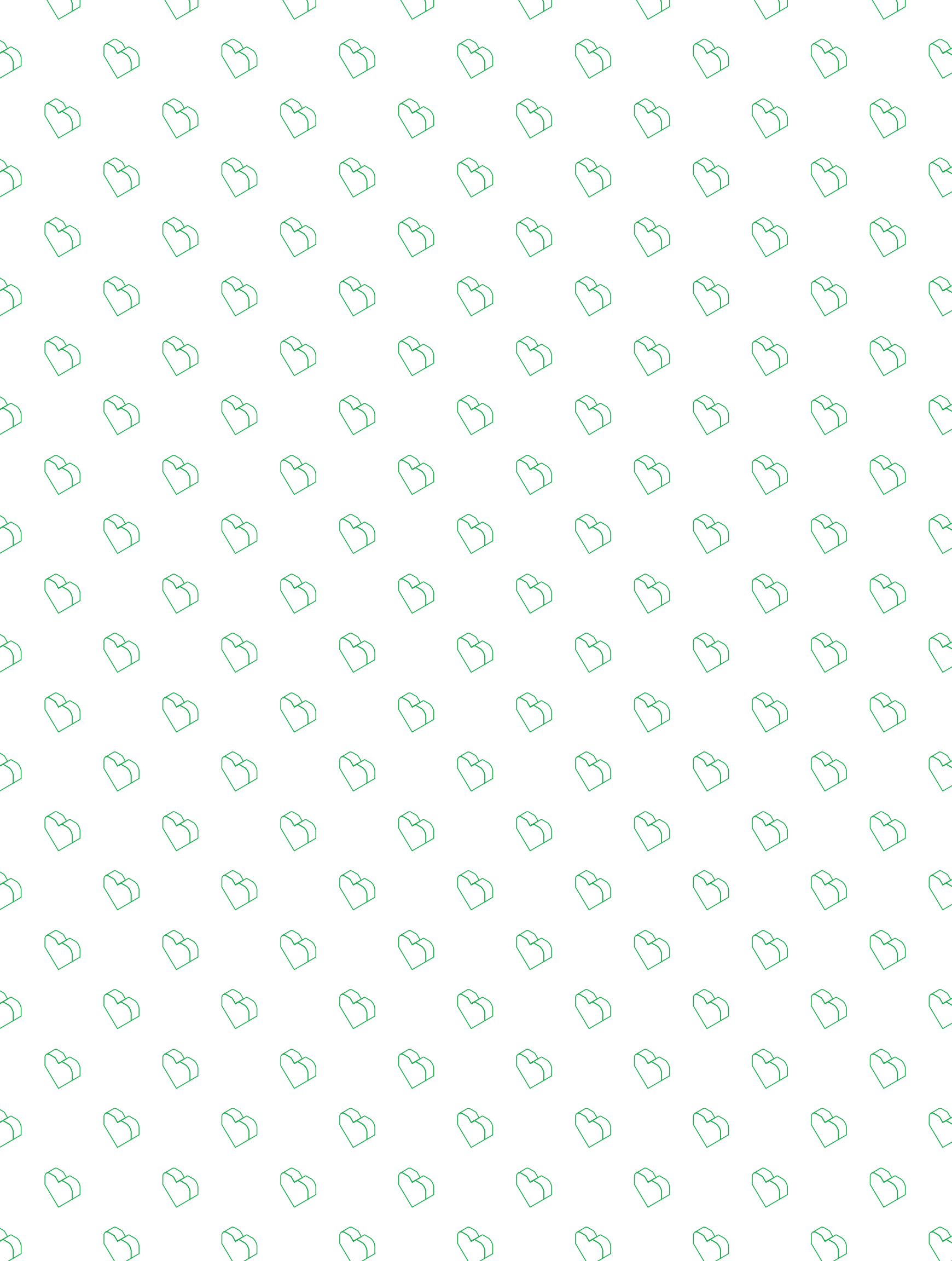
Open a web browser on your desktop or mobile device (e.g., tablet), visit [g.co/TowerOfTreasure](https://g.co/TowerOfTreasure).

### Discussion topics



Have your students play Tower of Treasure and use the questions below to prompt further discussion about the lessons learned in the game. Most students get the most out of the experience by playing solo, but you can also have students pair up. This may be valuable especially for younger students.

- What are the elements of a super strong password?
- When is it important to create strong passwords in real life? What tips have you learned on how to do so?
- What is a hacker? Describe this character's behaviour and how they affect the game.
- Did Tower of Treasure change the way you plan to protect your information in the future?
- Name one thing you will do differently after learning these lessons and playing the game.
- Craft three practice passwords that pass the "super strong" test.
- What are some examples of sensitive information that should be protected?



# It is Cool to Be Kind

## Learning and practicing the power of online kindness

### Lesson overview

|            |   |            |            |
|------------|---|------------|------------|
| Lesson 1.1 | <b>Noticing feelings</b>                      | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 2–3 |
| Lesson 1.2 | <b>Practicing empathy</b>                     | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 4–6 |
| Lesson 2.1 | <b>Your kindness gram</b>                     | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 2–3 |
| Lesson 2.2 | <b>Ways to show kindness</b>                  | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 4–6 |
| Lesson 3   | <b>From negative to nice</b>                  | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 2–6 |
| Lesson 4   | <b>About your tone</b>                        |            | Grades 2–6 |
| Lesson 5   | <b>How words can change the whole picture</b> | <b>ML</b>  | Grades 2–6 |
| Lesson 6   | <b>Interland: Kind Kingdom</b>                | <b>SEL</b> | Grades 2–6 |

### Themes

The digital world creates new challenges and opportunities for social interaction, for children and all the rest of us. Social cues can be harder to read online, constant connecting can bring both comfort and anxiety, and anonymity can fuel crushes and compliments as well as harm to ourselves and others.

It's complicated, but we know that the Internet can amplify kindness as well as negativity. Learning to express kindness and empathy—and how to respond to negativity and harassment—is essential for building healthy relationships and reducing bullying, depression, academic struggles and other problems.

Research shows that, rather than simply telling children not to be negative online, two kinds of teaching can help address the underlying causes of negative behaviour: social-emotional learning and bullying prevention. These activities do not replace evidence-based programmes; they lay a great foundation, encouraging students to interact positively and deal with negativity from the start.

### Goals for students

- ✓ **Define** what being positive means and looks like, online and offline.
- ✓ **Lead** with positivity in online communications.
- ✓ **Identify** situations in which a trusted adult should be consulted.

### Standards addressed

**ISTE Standards for Educators:** 1a, 1c, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6d, 7a

**ISTE Standards for Students 2016:** 1c, 2b, 3d, 4d, 7a, 7b, 7c

**AASL Learning Standards:** I.a.1, I.a.2, I.b.1, I.b.2, I.b.3, I.c.1, I.c.2, I.c.3, I.d.3, I.d.4, II.a.1, II.a.2, II.b.1, II.b.2, II.b.3, II.c.1, II.c.2, II.d.1, II.d.2, II.d.3, III.a.1, III.a.2, III.a.3, III.b.1, III.b.2, III.c.1, III.c.2, III.d.1, III.d.2, IV.b.2, IV.b.3, IV.d.2, V.a.2, V.a.3, V.c.1, V.c.3, V.d.1, V.d.2, V.d.3, VI.a.1, VI.a.2, VI.d.1, VI.d.3

# It is Cool to Be Kind

## Vocabulary

### Lesson 1

**Empathy:** Trying to feel or understand what someone else is feeling. “Trying” is an important word in the definition, because actually understanding other people’s feelings is really hard. We just get better and better—more skilled—at it by trying.

### Lesson 4

**Conflict:** An argument or disagreement that is not necessarily repeated

### Lesson 5

**Bullying:** Purposefully mean behaviour that is usually repeated. The person being targeted often has a hard time defending him or herself.

**Cyberbullying:** Bullying that happens online or through using digital devices.

**Harassment:** A more general term than bullying that can take many forms—pestering, annoying, intimidating, humiliating, etc.—and can happen online too.

### Lesson 6

**Caption:** Text that goes with a picture and provides information about what is in the picture.

**Context:** Additional information around the photo or other information that helps us understand better what we are seeing. Context can include information like the place where the photo was taken, the time a text was sent, the situation the sender was in, etc.

### Lesson 7

**Block:** A way to end all interaction with another person online, preventing them from accessing your profile, sending you messages, seeing your posts, etc. without notifying them (not always ideal in bullying situations where the target wants to know what the aggressor is saying or when the bullying has stopped).

**Mute:** Less final than blocking, muting is a way to stop seeing another person’s posts, comments, etc. in your social media feed when that communication gets annoying—without notifying that person or being muted from their feed (not usually very helpful in bullying situations); unlike with blocking, you can still go to their profile to see their posts, and in some apps they can interact with you in private messages.



## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 1.1

# Noticing feelings

Students practice empathizing with people they see on TV, in videos and in games—groundwork for more kinds of digital social experiences in the future.

**A note to the teacher:** After completing this lesson, look for opportunities to revisit it during academic lessons. Take a moment to have students practice empathizing with characters each time your class reads a story or watches a video. In “Let’s talk,” you will see parenthetical statements. They are suggestions for students’ responses. If they cannot think of a response, you can use these examples to prompt some answers.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** what empathy is.
- ✓ **Practice** empathizing with people depicted in media.

### Let us talk



Today you will all be investigators trying to find out what other people are feeling. You will need to look for hints, like what is happening or how someone is acting.

*Teacher reads the list of feeling words in the handout.*

OK, remember a time you felt one of these feelings. Think about what happened and how your body felt.

*Give them time to think, then choose a student to act out the situation they remembered—they can use sounds but not words.*

- What feeling do you think you just saw? What hints did you see? (Various answers.)  
Notice how we saw different hints and came up with different answers.  
*Have the student tell the story behind the feeling they were showing.*
- Does knowing what was happening make guessing the feeling easier? (“Yes.”)
- Why? (“You can think about how you would feel in that situation.”)

Trying to figure out what someone else is feeling is called having empathy. You don’t have to know; it just really helps to try. Empathy helps us make friends and avoid upsetting people. Having empathy is not always easy. It takes practice. It is even harder to have empathy for someone you read about in a book or see in a video.

- Why do you think that is harder? (“You cannot see them.” “You don’t know everything that’s happening.”)
- Why do you think it is important for us to practice empathizing with people in books or videos? (“It helps you enjoy the books and videos more.” “You like the people better.” “You can understand what is going on in the story better.” “It is good practice for empathizing with people online or here at school.”)

We are now going to do an activity that will help you figure out how people in books and other media feel.

Continued on the next page →

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Noticing feelings" (one per group of 3–4 students)
- Handout: "Common feeling words"

1. **Project the Common feeling words** for the class to see.
2. **Place students** into groups of 3–4.
3. **Have students work in small groups** to complete the worksheet.
4. **Call on groups** to tell the class what they came up with.

---

## Takeaway

Empathizing with people in books and videos is important. It helps you enjoy the books and videos more, and it is good practice for you when you are with **real** people online and offline. As you get older, you will start having more and more conversations digitally, on phones and computers. The more you practice empathy in text messages, games and videos, the more fun you'll have socializing online.

# Noticing feelings



## Scenario 1

What are two ways Athena might be feeling?

What hints support your ideas?

What are two ways Tucker might be feeling?

What hints support your ideas?

Worksheet: Lesson 1.1

# Noticing feelings

Kendi and Kevin

Are you okay after what happened at rehearsal?

Forget it.

Why did you do it?

For fun.

Was it fun?

Sure, I guess.

Seriously?

I said, forget it.

Scenario 2

What are two ways Emeka might be feeling?

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What hints support your ideas?

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What are two ways Kendi might be feeling?

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What hints support your ideas?

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# Common feeling words



Happy



Frustrated



Sad



Worried



Surprised



Disappointed



Scared



Excited



Angry



Calm

## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 1.2

# Practicing empathy

Students practice identifying how they feel in digital social interactions.

**SEL background for teachers:** *Empathy is a crucial foundation for healthy interpersonal relationships. It has been shown to increase academic success and decrease problematic behaviour. The definition of empathy is “trying to feel or understand what someone else is feeling”—not the ability to do so. That distinction is important because it is really hard to identify others’ emotions correctly (most adults struggle too). It is also not the point. Simply making the effort helps us and our students feel compassion for others and motivates kind action. This is what our children deserve to know. If students focus on getting it “right,” remind them that the best way to find out how someone is really feeling is to ask them.*

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** what empathy is.
- ✓ **Practice** empathizing with people they encounter online.
- ✓ **Recognize** why it is important to practice empathy.

## Let us talk



Think about a time you were talking with someone else online in an app, a game, or by texting. Could you tell how they were feeling? (“Yes.” “No.”) What emotions might they have been feeling? (“Happy.” “Angry.” “Excited.” “Frustrated.”)

Trying to feel or understand what someone else is feeling is called having empathy.

- Why is it good to show empathy? (“To know when others need help.” “Help be a good friend.” “Avoid making someone angry.”)
- How could empathizing with others help when you are interacting with someone online? (“Help understand what they are thinking.” “Keep from hurting them.” “Avoid accidentally starting drama. Easier to work with them in a game.”)
- How can you tell how someone else might be feeling? (“Recognizing what is going on around them.” “What they say or do.” “Posture.” “Facial expressions.” “Tone of voice.”)

*Teacher uses his/her face, body, and/or words to show an emotion like excitement or joy.*

- What was I just feeling? (Various answers.)

Recognizing other people’s emotions takes practice—it is hard for adults too—and it is especially hard when you are interacting online.

- What makes empathizing digitally difficult? (“Sometimes I cannot see people’s faces or bodies.” “When you cannot hear their voice.” “When you cannot see what is going on around them.”)
- What are some clues we can use to help understand others’ feelings online? (“Emojis.” “Photos.” “Use of CAPITAL LETTERS.” “Our history of interacting with someone.”)

Today we are going to do an activity to help you recognize how people you interact with online are feeling.

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Practising empathy" (one per student)

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**1. Hand out one copy of the activity worksheet** to each student, or project it for the class to see.

**2. Have students work independently** to guess how the people in each scenario are feeling.

**3. Have students compare their answers** with a partner and discuss how each person came up with their answers.

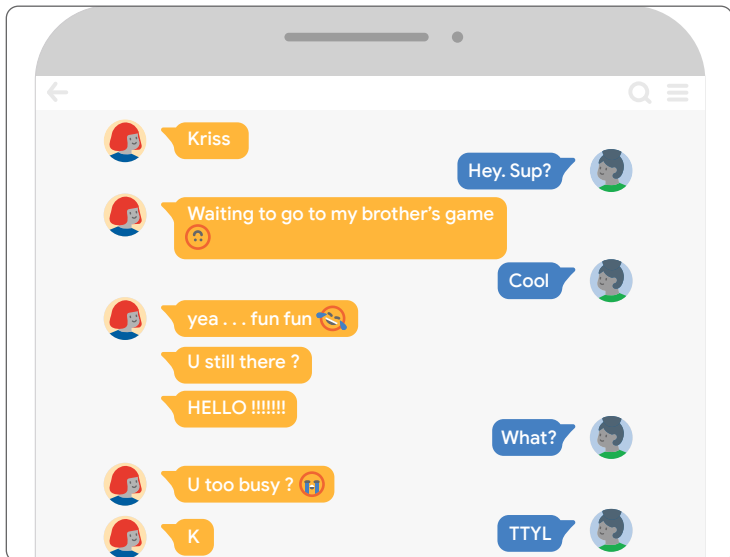
**4. Call on pairs** to tell the class about scenarios where they disagreed on the answers and what about those scenarios which made them harder to predict.

---

## Takeaway

It is really hard to guess other people's feelings correctly—sometimes especially online—but empathy is not about getting the answer right. It is about **trying** to. Just by trying to understand how someone is feeling, you are more likely to get along with them and less likely to hurt them. Amazing, isn't it? And when you keep trying, you are helping to create kinder, more awesome online times for you and everyone else.

# Practicing empathy



How do you think Kriss might be feeling?

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Why?

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How do you think Haddie might be feeling?

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Why?

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How do you think Cyrus might be feeling?

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Why?

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## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 2.1

# Your kindness gram

Students explore what it means to show kindness.

**A note to the teacher:** In preparation for “Let’s Talk,” think of an example of when someone was kind to you and how it made you feel, then an example of when you showed kindness to someone and how it made you feel. This lesson asks that you use these experiences to write your own “Kindness Gram” (see the worksheet) to share with students as an example.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Define** kindness.
- ✓ **Recognize** how kindness can affect people’s feelings.
- ✓ **Identify** ways to show kindness.

### Let us talk



*Have students pair up.*

What does it mean to be kind? Turn and tell your partner. (Various answers.)

*Give students time to talk with a partner, then ask for volunteers to share their thinking.*

Kindness is doing something nice or saying something nice to others, right? I am going to ask you all to think of an example of when someone was kind to you. To help you get started, I will give you an example in my own life.

*Provide an example of a time when someone was kind to you and describe how it made you feel.*

OK, so now think about a time when someone was kind to **you**. How did it make you feel? Tell your partner. (Various answers.)

*Give students time to talk with a partner, then ask for volunteers to share their thinking.*

When someone is kind to us, it can make us feel better when we are sad or upset. Being kind can also make **us** feel good. So in my life, here is an example of something kind I did for someone.

*Provide an example of a time you were kind to someone and describe for your students how it made you feel.*

Now it is your turn.

- Think about a time when **you** were kind to someone.

*Give them think time.*

- Tell your partner about what you did and how it made you feel. (Various answers.)

*Give students time to discuss, then ask for volunteers to share their thinking.*

Let us practice being kind by looking at some examples. [Refer to Side 1 of the handout.]

- **Jules** is feeling left out at recess and sitting all alone. How do you think she feels? ("Sad." "Lonely.") How could you show her kindness? ("Sit with her." "Invite her to play.") How do you think Jules will feel after someone is kind to her? ("Happy." "Included.")
- **Koji** dropped his lunch tray. How do you think he feels? ("Embarrassed." "Upset.") How could you show him kindness? ("Help him pick up his lunch." "Say something nice.") How do you think Koji will feel after someone is kind to him? ("Better.")

The amazing thing about showing kindness is that it helps us practice empathy. Empathy means trying to feel or understand what someone else feels. Kindness is empathy in action! When we practise empathy by being kind, we can make the world a better place.

---

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Empathy at school" with "Your kindness gram" on side 2 (one per student)

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Turn over your worksheet to the second side, where it says **Your kindness gram** at the top. Now think about someone in your life—maybe a friend, a teacher or a family member—who you want to show kindness to. Then fill out a kindness gram to help you plan it out.

Students will choose a person (or multiple people) they can show kindness to and make at least one kindness gram.

1. Have students work independently.
2. Then have each student share their kindness gram with a partner.

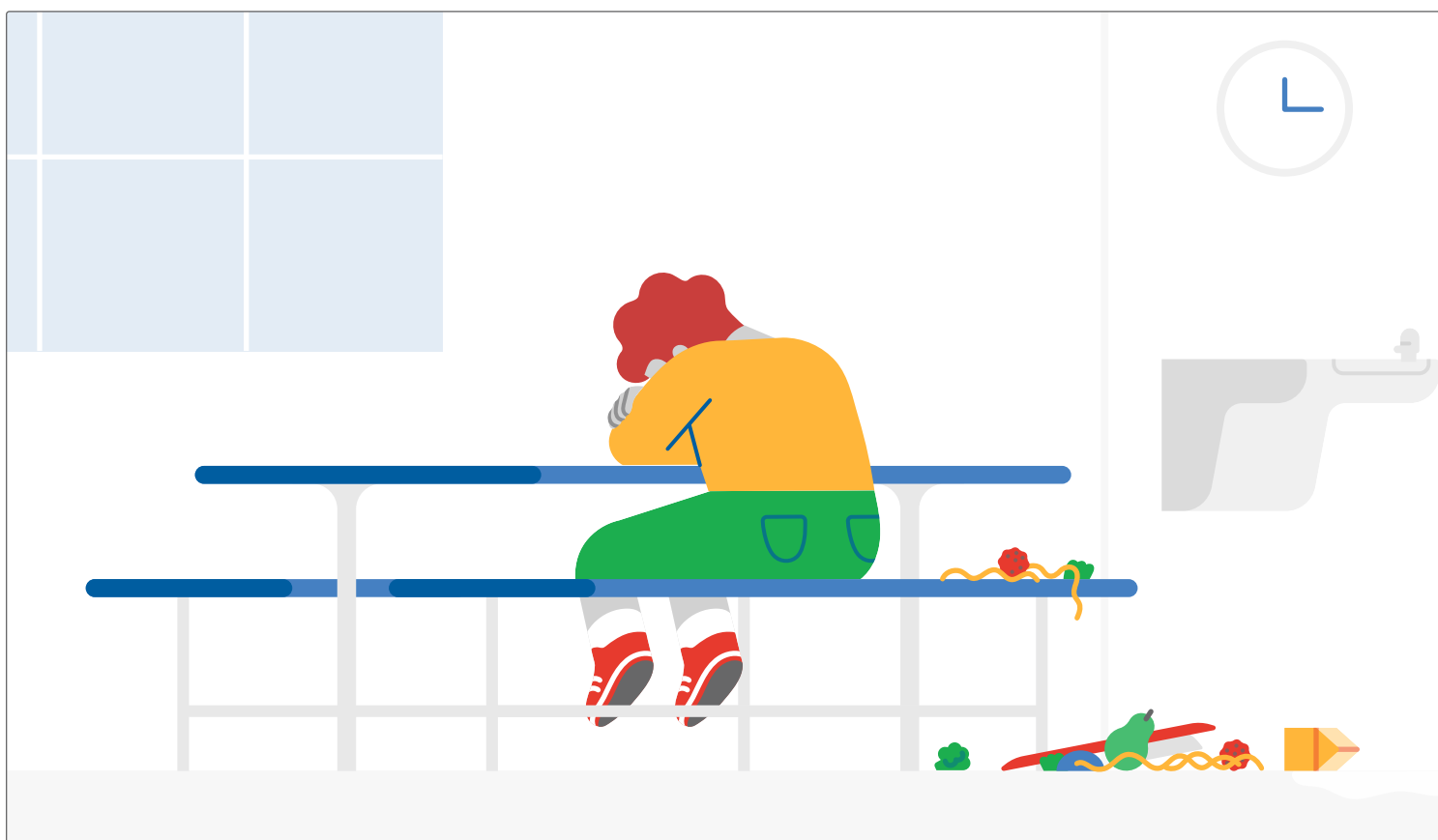
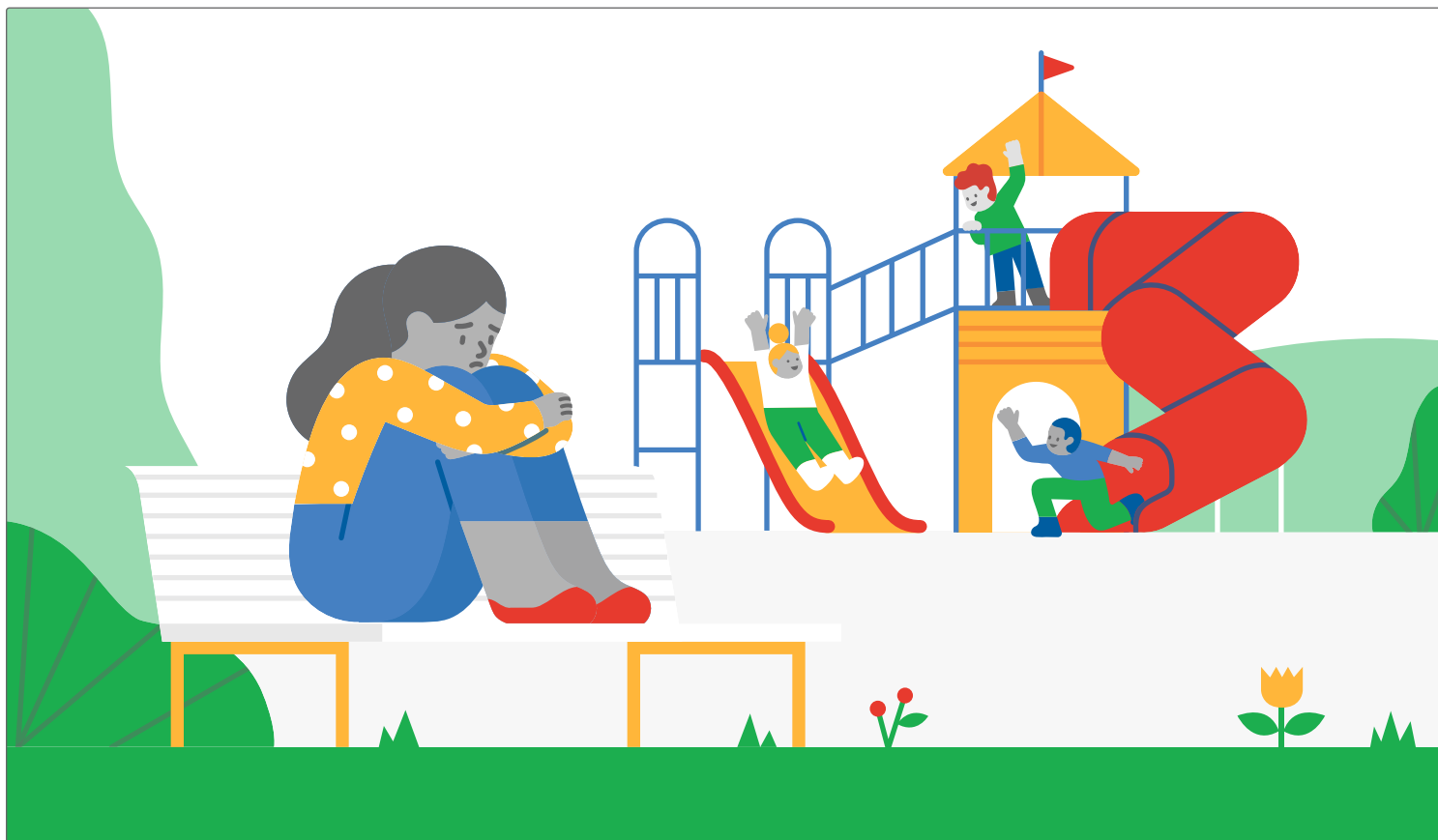
Now that you have finished your kindness gram, think about when you're going to put it into action. Give students time to think and call on a few to tell the class about their kindness gram and when they are going to act on it.

---

## Takeaway

Kindness is doing something nice or saying something nice to others. By showing kindness we can help others feel better when they are sad or upset. There are many ways and places we can show kindness, online and offline—and the more the better, right?!

# Empathy at school



Continued on the next page →

# Your kindness gram

**I will show  
kindness to**

the person you want to show kindness to

**I will show  
kindness by**

the kind thing you will do or say

**I will do this  
kind thing in**

where—for example, at home, in the lunchroom, at soccer practice,  
in a text, in a digital game with someone I am playing with, etc.)

## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 2.2

# Ways to show kindness

Students explore what it means to be kind online.

**A note to the teacher:** Before beginning the lesson, think of a time someone was kind to you online and how it made you feel. This lesson asks that you share this with the class at the end of the “Let’s talk” section.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** the meaning of kindness.
- ✓ **Identify** ways kindness can look like online.

### Let us talk



Teacher writes the word “Kindness” on the board.

Think to yourself:

- What is the definition of kindness?

*Give students think time.*

- Turn and tell your neighbor what you think.

*Give students time to talk with a partner, then call on a few to tell the class what they thought. Give them a chance to come up with several different answers.*

Having empathy for others helps you show kindness. So building on what we learned in Activity 1, what is empathy? (“Trying to feel or understand what someone else is feeling.”)

- How can it help you show kindness? (“Notice when someone is upset or sad.” “Know what will make someone feel better.”)
- Why is it important to be kind to others? (“Builds friendships.” “Helps people feel safe and welcome.” “So people will be kind to me.”)
- What are some ways you can show kindness to others? (“Do something nice.” “Help them feel better.” “Say something positive.” “Let them know you care.”)

It is important to show kindness everywhere, but today we are going to talk about showing kindness **online**.

- What can make it difficult to show kindness online? (“Harder to tell when someone is upset.” “You might not know who the person is.” “Not sure how to show kindness online.” “It is very public and might be embarrassing.”) When you show kindness online it can be really powerful. When other people see you being kind online it encourages them to be kind too.

*Share your story about a time someone was kind to you online and how it made you feel.*

- How could **you** show kindness online to someone who might be sad?

(Various answers.)

...who might be upset? (Various answers.)...who might be angry? (Various answers.)

Now we are going to practice showing kindness online.

Continued on the next page →

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: “Ways to show kindness” (one per group of 3–4 students)

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**1. Place students** in groups of 3–4.

**2. Give each group** a worksheet.

**3. Have each group collaborate** to complete the worksheet.

**4. For each scenario, call on one group** to tell the class how they would show kindness. If the group is willing, have it act out the scenario for the class.

---

## Takeaway

There are lots of ways to show kindness online. Being kind online will help make your online world a kinder, more welcoming place for everyone. It also feels good to show kindness. The next time you are kind to someone, take a moment to notice how you are feeling too.

# Ways to show kindness

1. Read each scenario.
2. Discuss as a group ways to show kindness in each scenario, and write down your best ideas.
3. Be ready to tell the class what your group came up with.

## Scenario 1

People are leaving disrespectful comments on a selfie your friend posted.

One way I can show kindness is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another way is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Scenario 2

You are playing an online game, and one player is insulting and trash talking another player.

One way I can show kindness is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another way is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Scenario 3

Several of your friends are making mean jokes about another student in a private group chat.

One way I can show kindness is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another way is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 3

# From negative to nice

In this activity, students work together to reframe negative comments in order to learn how to redirect negative interactions into positive ones.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Express** feelings and opinions in positive, effective ways
- ✓ **Respond** to negativity in constructive and civil ways.

## Let us talk



### Turning negative to positive

Children of your age are exposed to all kinds of online content, some of it with negative messages that promote bad behaviour. But you can turn that around.

- Have you (or anyone you know) seen someone being negative on the web? How did that make you feel?
- Have you (or anyone you know) ever experienced a random act of kindness on the web? How did it make you feel?
- What simple actions can we take to turn negative interactions into positive ones?

We can respond to negative emotions in constructive ways by changing unfriendly comments to nicer ones and becoming more aware of tone in our online communication.

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- A whiteboard or projection screen
- Handout: "...but say it nicely!" (one per team of students)
- Sticky notes or devices for students

### 1. Read the comments

We are all looking at the negative comments.

### 2. Write revisions

Now let us separate into teams of three and work on two kinds of responses to these comments:

- How could you have made the same or similar points in more positive and constructive ways?
- If one of your classmates made comments like these, how could you respond in a way that would make the conversation more positive?

**A note to the teacher:** *It might help to get things moving completing one example together as a class.*

### 3. Present responses

Now each team will perform its responses for both situations.

## Takeaway

Reacting to something negative with something positive can lead to a more fun and interesting conversation—which is a lot better than working to clean up a mess created by an unkind comment.



# From negative to nice

Read the comments below. After each comment, discuss:

1. How could you have said the same or something similar in more positive and constructive ways?
2. If one of your classmates made comments like these, how could you respond in a way that would make the conversation more positive?

Use the spaces below each comment to write down ideas.

LOL Kimani is the only one in class not going on the camping trip this weekend.

Everybody to wear purple tomorrow, but don't tell Lilly.

Sorry I don't think you can come to my party. It will cost too much money.

No offense but your handwriting is a mess so you should probably switch groups for this project.

This makes me cringe—who told her she can sing??

You can only join our group if you give me the login to your account.

Am I the only one who thinks Shanna looks kinda like a little green alien?



## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 4

# About your tone

Students interpret the emotions behind text messages to practice thinking critically and avoiding misinterpretation and conflict in online exchanges.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Make good decisions** when choosing how and what to communicate—and whether to communicate at all.
- ✓ **Identify** situations when it is better to wait to communicate face-to-face with a peer than to text them right away.

### Let us talk



#### It is easy to misunderstand

People use different types of communication for different kinds of interaction, but messages sent via chat and text can be interpreted differently than they would in person or over the phone.

- Have you ever been misunderstood when texting? For example, have you ever texted a joke and your friend thought you were being serious—or even mean?
- Have you ever misunderstood someone else in a text or chat? What did you do to help clarify the communication? What could you do differently?

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- Sample text messages written on the board or projected

#### 1. Review messages

Let's take a look at these sample text messages on the board. The class probably has great examples too, so let us write some on the board for us to discuss.

- "That's so cool"
- "Whatever"
- "I'm so mad at you"
- "CALL ME NOW"
- "Kk fine"

#### 2. Read messages out loud

Now, for each message, we are going to ask one person to read it aloud in a specific tone of voice (e.g., angry, sarcastic, friendly).

What do you notice? How might these come across to other people? How might each "message sender" better communicate what they really mean?

### Takeaway

It can be hard to understand how someone is really feeling when they are reading a text. Be sure you choose the right tool for your next communication—and try not to read too much into things people say to you online. If you are unsure what the other person meant, find out by talking with them in person or on the phone.

## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 5

## How words can change the whole picture

**Media literacy background for teachers:** This lesson lays a foundation for elementary grade students by asking them to grapple with simple captions about individuals. In developmentally appropriate ways, this lesson covers these media literacy concepts and questions:

1. Knowing that all media are “constructed”—made by people who make choices about what to include and how to present it.
2. Routinely asking “Who made this and why?”
3. Routinely reflecting on the media we create by asking: “How might this message affect others?”

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Learn** that we make meaning from the **combination** of pictures and words.
- ✓ **Understand** how a caption can change what we think a picture is communicating.
- ✓ **Begin to see** the power of your words, especially when combined with pictures you post.
- ✓ **Understand** how to be a responsible media maker.
- ✓ **Develop the habit** of asking, “Who posted this and why?”

## Let us talk

**How can words change a picture?**

Pictures combined with words are a powerful way to communicate. Imagine a news photo of a house on fire. One caption says “Family loses house but everyone gets out safely, including the dog.” That would be sad, and maybe a little scary, right? But what if the caption said, “Firefighters set empty house on fire so they could practice using new firefighting tools.” You are still looking at a house on fire, but you have a very different idea about what is happening. You might even feel safe instead of scared.

## Activity

**Materials needed:**

- See following page

*Divide the class into small groups. Without revealing to students that you are handing out two different versions, give half the groups the handout with the positive caption and the other half the one with the negative caption.*

**1. Pictures + words**

Take a look at the image. With your group, describe the person in the picture. What sort of person do you think they are? Do you think you’d like to spend time with them or be their teammate? Why or why not?

*The evidence will quickly reveal that groups were looking at pictures with different captions. Have each group hold up their picture so the others can see the difference.*

Finally, briefly discuss: What does this show about the power of words to shape our ideas?

**2. Still not sure?**

Take a look at some more examples (see **How words can change a picture**)...

**Materials needed:**

- Pictures of teachers and staff from your school going through their daily routines. For 2–3 weeks prior to the activity, you will want to gather a few digital photos, or assign the students to gather them without revealing the pictures' role in this activity (always with the subjects' permission, of course).

If that is not possible, you could gather age-appropriate pictures from magazines or news sources.

- **Optional:** At least one picture of every student in the class
- Handout: "Sports images"
- Handout: "How words can change a picture"

Think about what it would feel like to get or see a message that included one of the pictures with the negative caption. Seeing or hearing negative messages does not only hurt the person in the picture. It can make other people who see the picture uncomfortable too.

When you get the message or photo, what do you do? You always have a choice.

You can...

- Choose not to share the picture with anyone else, or...
- Tell the sender that you would rather not get messages that are meant to hurt someone, or...
- Support the person in the picture by letting them know that you know it is not true, or...
- All the above.

You could also send a positive message. Not an answer—just your own positive message. Seeing or hearing positive messages supports the person in the picture and can make others feel good and want to post their own positive messages.

### 3. Someone at our school

*Teacher selects random photo from shuffled set of school staff photos.*

Practice creating different kinds of captions. First make up some captions that would make the person in the photo feel happy or proud. How many different captions can you think up?

Now let's talk about funny captions. Is there a difference between writing what is funny to you and what might be funny to the person in the photo? Is there a difference between a joke that is kind and funny to **everyone**, and a joke that makes fun of someone and is only "funny" to a few people?

Write some captions that are examples of what we discussed, then let us all pick a caption for each photo that is both funny and kind—not hurtful to the person in the photo.

Keep practising using pictures of other people at our school. Did you get any new ideas about kind things to say by looking at the captions that your classmates wrote?

### 4. Class collage

Create a collage of pictures of every person in your class, each with a kind caption written on it.

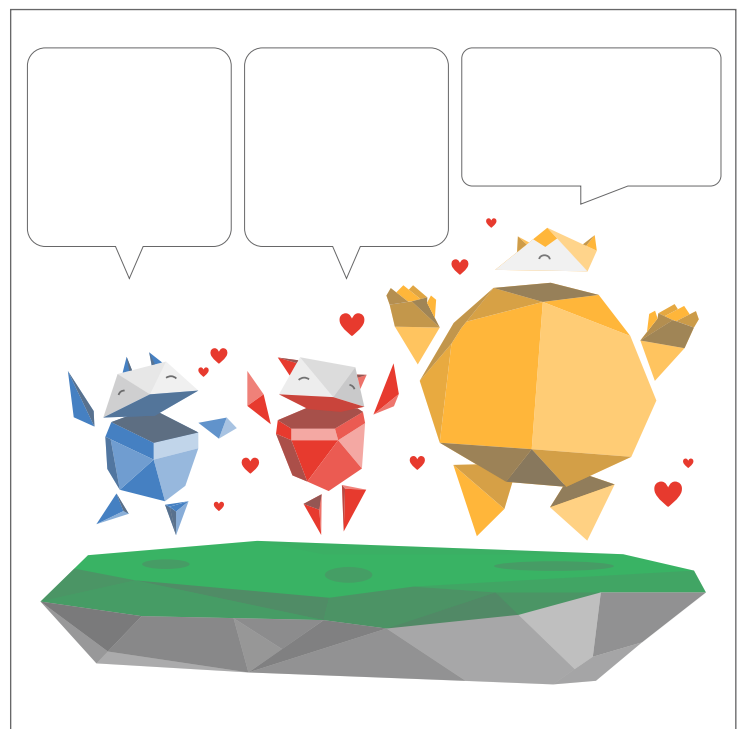
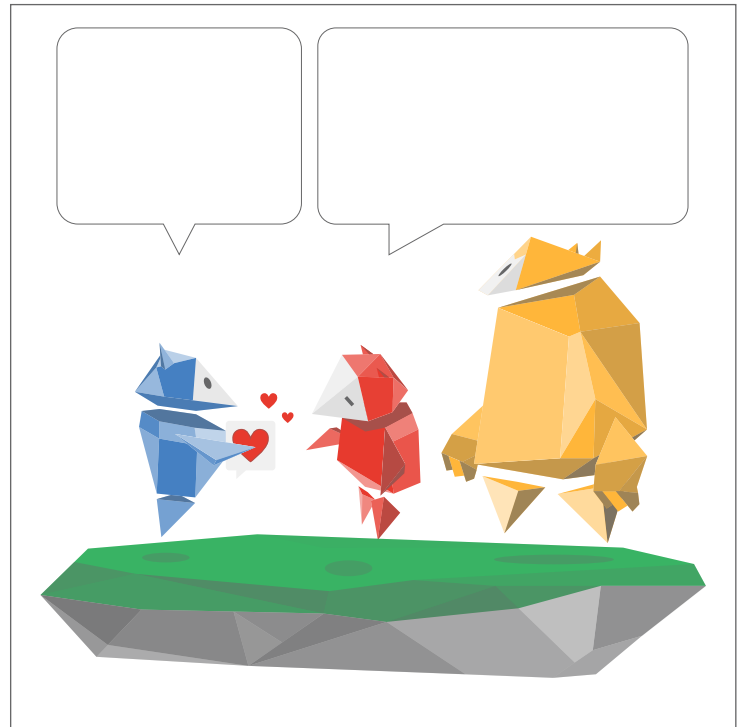
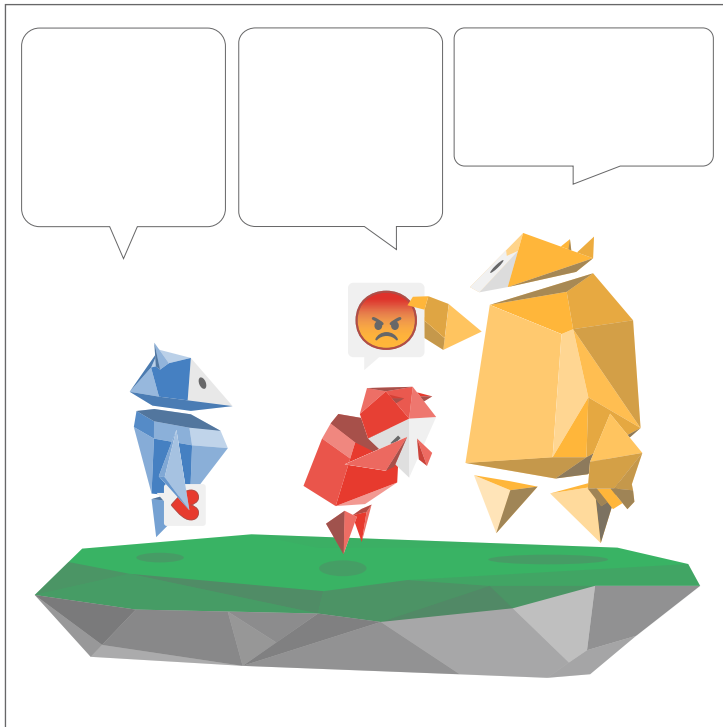
---

## Takeaway

Captions can change what we think—and feel—about a picture and the messages we think we are getting. It is good to think or pause before posting pictures with captions, to consider how the whole thing might make others feel. And before accepting pictures and captions that others post, ask, "Who posted this and why?"

## Extension

Try this experiment. Distribute a short comic strip in which all the words have been deleted. Then have every student, working individually, fill in the thought/conversation bubbles to tell the story they see. Compare the results. Did everyone see the same story or write the same words? Why not? What does the experiment show about how we use words to provide context or understand what a picture's "saying"?



# Sports images



Awesome!



Show Off!



Awesome!



Show Off!

# How words can change a picture



Original artwork wins first place.



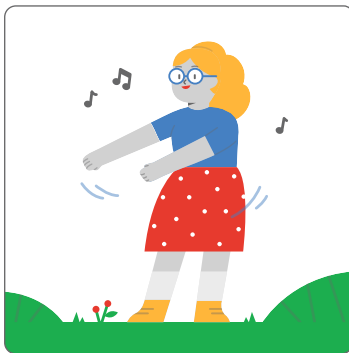
Hot Mess.



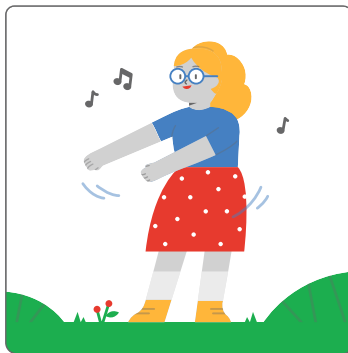
I discovered a new species in the world!



Mmm Dinner!



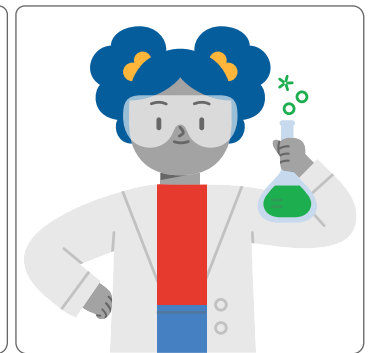
Nailed it!



Awkward - not even close!



Youngest scientist in the world!



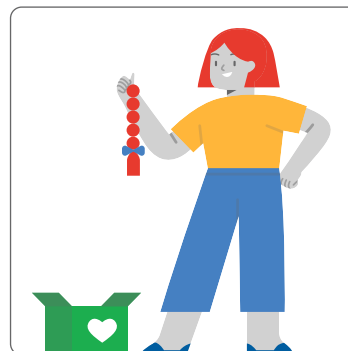
Nerding out. #lame



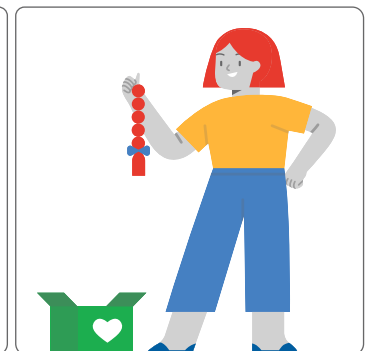
Finally, my own phone!



Got my mom's lame old phone. :/



Grew my hair out and donated it to a cancer patient. <3



WORST. HAIRCUT. EVER!

## It is Cool to Be Kind: Lesson 6

# Interland: Kind Kingdom

Vibes of all kinds are contagious, for better or for worse. In the sunniest corner of town, aggressors are running amok, spreading negativity everywhere. Block and report the aggressors to stop their takeover and be kind to other Internauts to restore the peaceful nature of this land.

Open a web browser on your desktop or mobile device (e.g., tablet), visit [g.co/KindKingdom](https://g.co/KindKingdom).

### Discussion topics



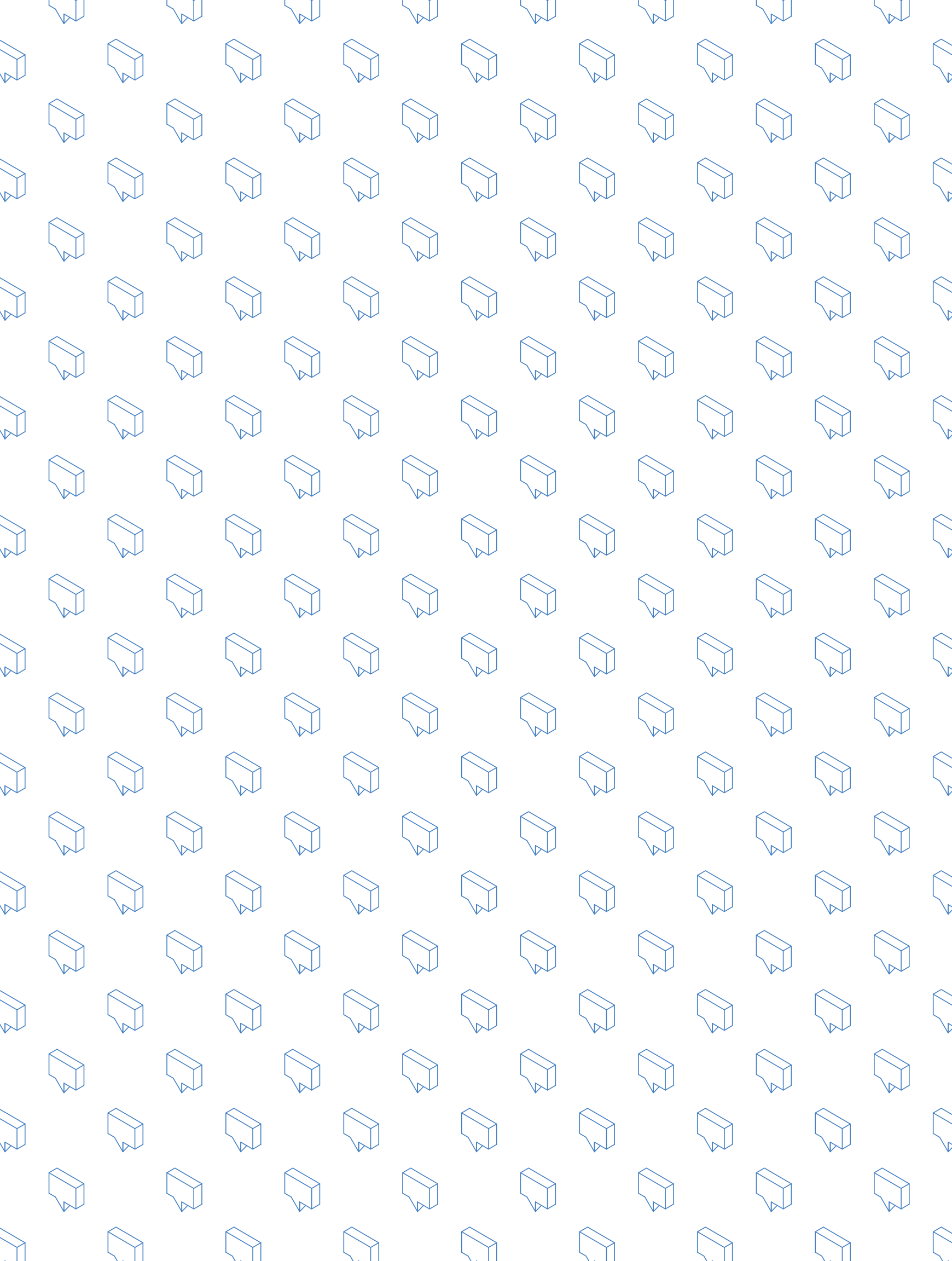
Have your students play Kind Kingdom and use the questions below to prompt further discussion about the lessons learned in the game. Most students get the most out of the experience by playing solo, but you can also have students pair up. This may be valuable especially for younger students.

- What scenario in Kind Kingdom do you relate to most and why?
- Describe a time when you have taken action to spread kindness to others online.
- In what situation would it be appropriate to block someone online?
- In what situation would it be appropriate to report someone's behaviour?
- Why do you think the character in Kind Kingdom is called an aggressor? Describe this character's qualities and how his actions affect the game.
- Does this game change the way you plan to behave toward others? If so, how?



## Notes

[illegible]



# When in Doubt, Talk It Out

Defining and encouraging Internet Brave behaviour.

|                     |  |  |   |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Lesson overview     | Lesson 1<br>Lesson 2<br>Lesson 3<br>Lesson 4.1<br>Lesson 4.2<br>Lesson 5.1<br>Lesson 5.2<br>Lesson 6<br>Lesson 7   | What does it mean to be brave?<br>From bystanders to helpers<br>Helpers have options!<br>Seeing upsetting stuff: What do I do?<br>Upsetting stuff online: What do I do?<br>What to do about mean stuff on screens<br>Handling mean behaviour online<br>When to get help<br>Report it online, too | ML<br>SEL<br><br>SEL<br>SEL<br>SEL<br>SEL<br><br><br>Grades 2–6<br>Grades 2–6<br>Grades 2–6<br>Grades 2–3<br>Grades 4–6<br>Grades 2–3<br>Grades 4–6<br><br>Grades 2–6<br>Grades 2–6 |
| Themes              | It is important that children understand they are not on their own when they see content online that makes them feel uncomfortable—especially if it looks like they or somebody else could get hurt. First, they should never hesitate to get help from someone they trust. Second, it’s good for them to know they have options: There are different ways to be brave and take action.  |  |   |
| Goals for students  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Understand</b> what types of situations call for getting help or talking things out with a trusted adult.</li><li>✓ <b>Consider</b> what options are there for being brave and why bringing adults into the conversation is important.</li></ul>  |  |   |
| Standards addressed | <p><b>ISTE Standards for Educators:</b> 1c, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6d, 7a</p> <p><b>ISTE Standards for Students 2016:</b> 1c, 2b, 3d, 4d, 6a, 7a, 7b, 7c</p> <p><b>AASL Learning Standards:</b> I.a.1, I.b.1, I.b.2, I.c.1, I.c.2, I.c.3, I.d.3, I.d.4, II.a.1, II.a.2, II.b.1, II.b.2, II.b.3, II.c.1, II.c.2, II.d.1, II.d.2, II.d.3, III.a.1, III.a.2, III.a.3, III.b.1, III.c.1, III.c.2, III.d.1, III.d.2, IV.a.2, IV.b.3, V.a.2, V.a.3, V.c.1, V.c.3, V.d.1, V.d.2, V.d.3, VI.a.1, VI.a.2, VI.a.3, VI.d.1, VI.d.3</p> |  |   |

# When in Doubt, Talk It Out

## Vocabulary

### Lesson 1

**Media:** A tool for or means of communicating something (an idea, concept, message, information, etc.). Examples of media: TV, books, newspapers, the Internet, the side of a truck, a t-shirt—whatever has information on it, even just a logo.

### Lesson 2

**Aggressor:** The person doing the harassing or bullying; though sometimes called the “bully,” bullying prevention experts advise never to label people as such.

**Bullying:** Mean or cruel behaviour that is repeated and meant to hurt someone (physically, emotionally and or socially) who is more vulnerable than the aggressor. Cyberbullying is the digital form of this behaviour.

**Bystander:** A witness to harassment or bullying who recognizes the situation but chooses not to intervene.

**Harassment:** A word for many kinds of aggressive or mean behaviour, it is a more general term than “bullying”—it is not necessarily repeated or aimed at someone more vulnerable.

**Target:** The person being bullied or victimized.

### Lesson 4

**Refusal skills:** Skills children are taught to help them avoid unsafe online content or behaviour and understand that choosing to refuse what makes them uncomfortable is one form of self-respect.

### Lessons 2 and 4

**Trust:** Strong belief that something or someone is reliable, truthful or able.

### Lessons 2, 4, 6 and 7

**Report Abuse:** Using online tools for a social media service or system to report harassment, bullying, threats and other harmful content that typically violates the Terms of Service or Community Standards of the service.

### Lesson 6

**Courageous:** Brave; not necessarily fearless, though, because people are especially brave when they are scared or nervous but take positive action anyway.

**Student agency:** A step beyond student voice, agency is the capacity to act or make change; including protecting or standing up for oneself and others; often seen as a necessary part of citizenship.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 1

# What does it mean to be brave?

Thinking about how media influences us: Students name someone who has done something they consider to be brave. In thinking more deeply about their choice, they are asked to examine where their ideas about bravery come from and to discuss it amongst themselves.

**Media literacy background for teachers:** *We all know that people's thinking can be influenced by media. So to help students develop their awareness of that, it can really help to "talk it out"—think out loud together about how that happens. Here are a few important things to keep in mind as you teach this lesson:*

- *Our ideas are shaped by everything we see, hear and read.*
- *We interpret what we see through the lens of our own experiences, so we can take away very different messages from the very same media.*
- *We learn as much (sometimes more) from pictures as from words.*
- *Media literacy helps counter stereotypes by helping us become aware of (and challenge) patterns—especially repetition. For example, if all the heroes we see are male, we might get the idea that men are more likely to be heroes—even if no one ever actually **tells** us that women cannot be heroes (absence of information is something to watch out for too).*

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Think** about what it means to be brave, including what it means to be brave when we are online.
- ✓ **Identify** the source(s) of our ideas about what it means to be brave.
- ✓ **Learn the habit** of asking: "What are they leaving out?"

### Let us talk



What do you think of being brave, do you think of movie superheroes or firefighters? Those are great examples, but it is important to remember that **we** can be brave too.

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- A sheet of paper and something for each student to write with
- A whiteboard or any other way to write a list that everyone can see
- 3 large labels with bold lettering that students can see from 8–10' away, one for each category: "A character in media" (not a real person); "Someone I know personally"; "Someone I know **about**" (in history or in the news)

*Before you begin, post one label in each of 3 corners or areas of the classroom.*

#### 1. Today we are going to talk about being brave

On a sheet of paper, take a few seconds to write down the name (or job if you do not know the name) of someone—real or fictional, living now or from history—who has done something you think is brave. Don't show anyone what you have written yet.

#### 2. Was it easy or difficult to think of someone?

Stand if you thought it was easy. If it was hard, why do you think so? Do we talk about being brave a lot, or not very often? Usually, where do you see or hear about people doing brave things?

#### 3. The big reveal

Now you can reveal what person or character you picked by going to the label that fits the kind of individual you chose.

Continued on the next page →

So let us talk. Notice how many of you named a media character or even a real person that you knew about only through media (like a book or movie). What does that tell you about where your ideas about what it means to be brave come from?

Media need to make money, and that means they need **many** of us to pay attention to them. They present to us **the** most dramatic, action-filled kinds of bravery. So we see lots of superheroes and first responders and soldiers. Those can be great examples, but they definitely do not tell the whole story, right? It is always smart to ask, “**What are they leaving out?**”

So what other examples of bravery are there? Where else have you learned about what it means to be brave?

#### 4. Revealing more

In the groups you’re in now, talk about the reasons for your choices: What made your person brave? Were there differences in the types of brave things that real people did and the brave things that media characters do—if yes, what differences?

*After a few minutes of group discussion, bring the class back together and—on the whiteboard or easel—take notes...*

Let us think about this:

- Did anyone name a person who saved others from physical danger? (Raise your hand if your answer is “yes” to each question.)
- Did anyone name a person who stood up for someone who was being bullied? Most people would agree that saving someone from being physically hurt—especially if you might get hurt yourself—is brave.
- What about saving someone from having their feelings hurt—or being kind or supportive to them if their feelings already **were** hurt? Is that brave also?
- Or what about reporting something you see that makes you feel super uncomfortable—when you are not sure how the adult you report it to would react? Would you consider that as brave too?

Raise your hand if you can tell me about someone who was brave in these other ways—or if you have another kind of brave behaviour you have thought of. I would love to hear about that.

**Optional:** Divide the room into three sections again, but this time divided up into these areas:

- a) The person on my paper is female.
- b) The person on my paper is male.
- c) The person on my paper does not identify as male or female.

When you think of the word “brave,” do you picture a man or boy? A woman or girl? What does bravery by women/girls look like? Is it different than bravery by men/boys? Why do you think so?

#### 5. Discuss what it takes to be brave

Look carefully at the list you created about what it takes to be brave. Discuss:

- Can you imagine yourself doing any of the things on the list?
- Can you think of a situation where being kind is brave?
- What about **online** (or on a phone)—can you think of ways you could be brave online?

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### Takeaway

Bravery is about taking risks to help people—in all kinds of ways, big and small. Media can shape the way we think about things like what it means to be brave, but the media does not always present all the possibilities. So it can help to ask, “What or who are they leaving out?” When we are online, we also need to think about taking risks to save people from having their feelings hurt. We all can choose to be brave in **many** of ways.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 2

# From bystanders to helpers

Students practise identifying the four roles of a bullying incident (the person who bullies, the target of the bullying, the bystander, and the helper) and things to do if they witness bullying.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Identify** situations of harassment or bullying online.
- ✓ **Evaluate** what it means to be a bystander or helper.
- ✓ **Learn** specific ways to respond to bullying when you see it.
- ✓ **Know** how to behave if you experience harassment.

### Let us talk



#### Why does kindness matter?

It is important to remember that behind every screen name and online character or avatar there is a real person with real feelings, and it is good for us, them and everybody if we treat them as we would want to be treated. When bullying happens, there are usually four labels that describe how the people involved handle the situation.

- There is the **aggressor**, or person(s) doing the bullying
- There is also someone **being** bullied—the **target**.
- There are witnesses to what is going on, usually called **bystanders**.
- There are witnesses to what is going on, who try to help the target or turn things around. And **you** know what they are called: **helpers**, right?

If you find yourself the target of bullying or other bad behaviour online, here are some things you can do:

#### If I am the target, I can...

- Not respond
- Block the person
- Stand up for myself (but not retaliate, which can keep the negativity going)
- Report them—tell my parent, teacher, sibling or someone else I trust, and use the reporting tools in the app or service to report the post, comment or photo

If you find yourself a bystander when harassment or bullying happens, you have the power to intervene and report cruel behaviour—online as well as offline. Sometimes bystanders do not try to stop the bullying or help the target. You can choose to support the target and take a stand for kindness and positivity, privately or publicly.

#### If I am the bystander, I can help by...

- Finding a way to be kind to or support the person being targeted privately, through a phone call, text or direct message
- Publicly supporting the target by saying something nice about them in response to a mean comment or post
- In another kind of public support, getting a bunch of friends to create some kind comments about the person being targeted (but nothing mean about the aggressor, because you are setting an example, not retaliating)



- Calling out the mean behaviour in a comment or reply like “That is not good” (remember to call out the behaviour, not the person—if you feel comfortable and safe to do that)
- Deciding not to spread the drama by sharing, reposting or telling people about the mean post or comment
- Reporting the harassment. Tell someone who can help, like a parent, teacher, or school counselor.

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: “From bystanders to helpers” (one per student)

### Answers for each scenario on the worksheet:

**Scenario 1:** B, H, B (because not helping the situation), H, H

**Scenario 2:** H, B, H, H

**Scenario 3:** H, H, B, B, H

**Scenario 4:** The answers are all yours!

**Possible modification for grades 2–3:** *The worksheet scenarios may be a lot of reading for your students to do on their own in groups. So you might read the scenarios to the class and make it an all-class discussion. See if the class comes up with the right answers (below) before reading them out. (Oh, and remember that if students in Grades 2 and 3 haven't had experiences described here, they may have older siblings who have and might want to talk about that.)*

### 1. Bystander or Helper?

After discussing the roles above, pass the worksheet to the students and give them 15 min. to read the three scenarios and categorize each response (if there is time, have them create that 4th scenario together as a class).

### 2. Helpers at school and online

Discuss the answers above. Before or at the end of the discussion, ask them if they can tell you why it can be good to have helpers around, at school and online.

### 3. Discuss

If there is time, ask your students if any of the responses were hard to categorize and why. Have a discussion on that.

## Takeaway

Whether standing up for others, reporting something hurtful, or ignoring something to keep it from spreading even more, you have a variety of strategies to choose from, depending on the situation. With a little kindness, anyone can make a huge difference in turning bad situations around.

# From bystanders to helpers

So you now know that a bystander can use their kindness superpowers and help someone out who is being bullied. Below are 3 examples of online bullying or harassment. Each has a list of responses. Of course there is not just one right way to go (sometimes choosing to go with more than one can **really** help), but each choice below is about something either a bystander would do or a helper would do. Read each one and decide what it is, then put a “B” for “bystander” or an “H” for “helper” in the blank next to the response.

*If there is time, have a class discussion about the ones that seemed to make it harder to decide and why. Another option: The students may think of a 4th scenario—maybe something that happened at your school. As a class you could come up with responses that involve helping or just witnessing.*

## Scenario 1

A friend of yours dropped her phone by the drinking fountain near the school soccer field. Someone found it and sent a really mean message about another student to a bunch of people on her soccer team, making it look like your friend sent the mean message! So you know what “impersonation” means, right? The person who found your friend’s phone and sent the message was impersonating her, and the person they targeted told your friend she was a terrible person, even though she was not the one who sent the mean message. No one knows who actually sent the mean message. You...

- ☐ feel sad for your friend but do nothing because no one knows who did that mean thing to her.
- ☐ go find the person the mean message was about, tell them it did not come from your friend and ask them how they feel and whether you can help.
- ☐ spread the drama by sharing the mean message with other friends.

**A note to the teacher:** *Students may find this one challenging, which means they’re smart, because it is. This is neither pure bystanding nor helping because it is likely making things worse. Well, it may be worth discussing.*

- ☐ and your friend get everybody on the soccer team to post compliments about the person who was targeted.
- ☐ and your friend anonymously report the incident to your principal, letting her know that everybody needs to be talking about good phone security and locking their phones—maybe even to include it in morning announcements!

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## Scenario 2

Your teacher created a class blog for Language Arts, giving the class the ability to write, edit and post comments. The next day she is out sick and the substitute does not notice that things are going south in the class blog—someone is posting seriously mean comments about one of the students in the class. You...

- ☐ comment on the comments by saying things like, “This is not very good” and “I am \_\_\_\_\_their friend, and this is not true.”
- ☐ ignore it until your teacher gets back.
- ☐ get other students to call out the mean comments or post compliments about the student being targeted.
- ☐ tell the substitute that mean behaviour is happening in the class blog, and they might want to let the teacher know.

---

## Scenario 3

There is an online game that a bunch of your friends play a lot. Usually game chat is mostly about what is happening in the game. Sometimes it gets a little nasty, though that is usually more like friendly rivalry than anything really bad. But this one time, one player starts saying really nasty stuff about one of your friends who’s playing, and they just won’t stop. They even keep it up the next day. You...

- ☐ call up your friend and tell them you do not like this anymore than they do and ask them what they think you two should do.
- ☐ call everybody you know who plays with you guys (making sure your friend knows you are doing this) to see if you can get everybody’s agreement that it is time to call out the nastiness.
- ☐ decide to wait and see if the chid stops, then maybe do something.
- ☐ walk away from the game for a while.
- ☐ look for the game’s community rules and if bullying is not allowed, report the mean behaviour in the game’s reporting system.

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## Scenario 4

Create a real-life scenario as a class, based on a situation one of you has heard about, then come up with both bystander and upstander responses to show you definitely know what we are talking about now!

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 3

# Helpers have options!

Often students want to help out a target of bullying but do not know what to do. This activity shows them that they have choices, offers examples, and gives them an opportunity to create positive responses of their own.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **See** that being a helper is a choice.
- ✓ **Learn** that there are different ways to step in and be a helper in a specific situation.
- ✓ **Choose** how to respond using different options that feel safe and appropriate to you.
- ✓ **Create** your own response to the situation.

### Let us talk



When you see someone being mean to another person online—making them feel embarrassed or left out, making fun of them, disrespecting them, hurting their feelings, etc.—you always have choices. First, you can choose to be a helper instead of a bystander by helping the target. Second, if you choose to be a helper, you have options for what kind of action you take.

**The most important thing to know is that it can really help someone being targeted just to be heard if they feel bad—and to know that someone cares.**

Now, not everybody feels comfortable standing up for others **publicly**, whether online or in the school lunchroom. If you do, go for it! You can...

- Call out the mean behaviour (not the person) right when it happens, saying it is not good.
- Say something nice about the target later, in a post or comment
- Get friends to compliment the target online too.
- Offline, you can invite the person to hang out with you on the playground or sit with you at lunch

If you do not feel comfortable helping out publicly, that is fine. You can also support the target **privately**. You can...

- Ask how they are doing in a text or DM (direct message)
- Say something kind or complimentary in an anonymous post, comment, or direct message (if you are using media that lets you stay anonymous)
- Talk to them quietly in the hall and tell them you are there for them if they want to talk after school or on the phone
- Tell them you thought the mean behaviour was wrong and ask if they feel like talking about what happened

No matter how you choose to be a helper, you also have both public and private options for **reporting** what you saw. This could mean reporting bullying behaviour via a website or app, or it could mean reporting what is going on to an adult who you know will make the situation better, especially for the target.

---

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- A whiteboard or easel with large white pad on which students can stick sticky notes
- Handout: “Helpers have options!” (one per student or at least one per group)
- Sticky notes for each group of students

---

**Possible modification for grades 2–3:** *The worksheet scenarios may be a bit too much reading for your students to do on their own in groups. So you might read the scenarios to the class, then let the groups create their responses.*

In this activity, we are going to try out what it is like to be a helper, so let us assume our whole class has made the choice to help out the target.

### 1. Divide into groups of five students per group

Each group should pick one member to be a reader and one to be a writer.

### 2. Groups read and discuss the hurtful situations together

The three situations are provided in the worksheet on the next page.

*While groups are discussing, the teacher divides the whiteboard or easel into two large spaces with the headlines “Public Support” and “Private Support.”*

### 3. Groups choose or create their two kinds of responses for each

Students can work with the sample responses in “Let us talk” or create their own.

### 4. Students post their choices to the board and read out loud to the whole class

The teacher can then facilitate a class discussion based on the choices the students made.

---

## Takeaway

Many times when you see somebody being hurt or harassed, you want to help but you do not always know what to do. You now know many ways to help the target—and that you definitely have options for supporting them in ways that you are comfortable with. You have the power to help people in a way that works for you!

# Helpers have options!

Now that you are in your groups, each group gets to decide **how** you want to be a helper. Ask for one volunteer in your group to be a writer (on the sticky notes) and one to be a reader. The reader reads the first situation out loud and then the groups take five minutes for each situation to discuss and decide how you'd support the target publicly and how you'd support them privately. The writer writes your decisions on two sticky notes and sticks one note in the Public column and one note in the Private column on the whiteboard. To make your decision, use the ideas the class just discussed together OR make up your own way to help the target. Repeat that process for Situation 2 and Situation 3.

*Note: There is not just one right way to support a target because each person (whether target or bystander) is different and each situation is different. We are just trying out different helper options.*

---

## Situation 1

A student posts a video of themselves singing a cover to a famous pop artist's song. Other students start posting mean comments under the video. What do you do to support the student who posted the video? Work with some of the ideas on the previous page or agree on your group's own response.

---

## Situation 2

A student sends another student a screenshot of a comment your friend posted and makes a nasty joke about it. The screenshot gets reposted and goes viral at school. What will you do to support the student whose comment was screenshot and shared? Choose one of the ideas we just discussed as a class—or decide on your own response.

---

## Situation 3

You find out that a student at your school created a fake social media account using another student's name and posts photos and memes that say mean things about other students, teachers, and the school. What do you decide to do to support the student who is being impersonated in this mean way? Consider the ideas on the previous page or come up with your own response.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 4.1

# Seeing upsetting stuff: What do I do?

Students learn that if they see pictures or videos that they find upsetting they should trust their feelings, refuse to watch more and talk about what they saw with an adult they trust.

**A special note for educators:** *Because children in lower elementary grades tend to be online less than their older peers, this activity is about helping younger children deal with upsetting images or messages they might encounter anywhere. If a child runs into upsetting content or communication online and reports that to you privately later, follow these steps:*

1. Thank them for telling you and reassure them that they did the right thing in coming to you.
2. Listen to their report and believe what they say. If you feel comfortable, you can gently ask for more details, but do not push. In this situation, your job is to listen, not to be an investigator.
3. If the child indicates the content has been shared by an adult or that any inappropriate contact is involved, report what you have heard to your school administrator, understanding the sensitivity of this information and the primary importance of caring for the child.
4. Make sure the administrator follows through.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Recognize** upsetting content.
- ✓ **Understand** what to do when they encounter it.
- ✓ **Create a plan** for talking about what upset them with a trusted adult.

### Let us talk



Looking at pictures or watching videos on a phone, tablet or computer can be a lot of fun. Tap your head if you ever look at pictures or videos on a phone, tablet or computer. [Note number of tapped heads.]

- Who do you look at these things with? ("Family." "Friends." "Classmates.")
- What are some of your favourite things to watch? (Various answers.)
- How do you feel when you watch these? ("Excited." "Happy." "Relaxed.")

Pictures and videos are not **always** fun to watch. Snap your fingers if you have ever had to look at something that was boring. Or confusing. Or scary. [Note snaps.]

Think about a time you felt really upset—I am not talking about on a tablet or TV screen, but just **any** time you felt upset. You do not need to say what happened. I will give you some examples of how bodies can feel when people are upset. Raise your hand when you hear how **your** body felt when you were upset. [Pause after naming each body sensation...] Hot face. Racing heart. Sweaty palms. Sick stomach. Fast Breathing. You feel those feelings in your body, right?

Now snap your fingers if you have ever seen a picture or video that has made you feel upset. [Note snaps.] This activity will help you know what to do if you see pictures or videos that make you feel upset.

Continued on the next page →

If someone shows you a picture or video that makes you feel upset, you can refuse to watch. That is called growing your refusal skills, and that is important.

So what are some words you can use to refuse an uncomfortable picture or video? ("Please stop." "I do not like that." "I do not want to watch this.") [*Write down students' ideas on the board.*]

- Turn to your neighbor and practise saying one of these phrases. Use a strong, respectful voice.  
*Give students a chance to practise two or three different phrases.*
- What can make it hard to refuse? ("If the other person will not listen." "If they keep showing you similar things." "If you are afraid or embarrassed to refuse." "If the other person is older.")

This is a really important way you can be brave (referring to Lesson 1).

Sometimes, you might accidentally see something upsetting when you are using a phone, tablet or computer by yourself. Tap your head if this has ever happened to you. [*Note the heads tapped.*]

- What should you do if you accidentally see something like this? ("Close it." "Turn it off.")
- What if somebody showed it to you? ("I do not want to watch that." "That makes me feel bad.")

If you cannot or do not want to refuse, you can report what happened to an adult you trust. Adults will help take care of you and keep you safe. Who are some of the adults you trust? (Various answers.) When you report to an adult, remember to be assertive. Tell them what happened and use a strong respectful voice.

Now we're going to practice reporting to an adult.

---

## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Calm music
- Scenarios (next page)

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## Musical Reporting

### 1. Explain the rules to the class:

- A. "I will read a scenario."
- B. "I will play music for 30 seconds."
- C. "While the music is playing, walk around and think about what you would say while reporting the scenario to an adult."
- D. "When the music stops, find a partner and practise reporting with them."

### 2. Choose a scenario and start the music.

### 3. Stop the music.



- 4. Listen to students as they practise.** Choose one pair of students to demonstrate what they said for the class.
- 5. Call on a few other students** at random to tell the class what they would do in this situation.
- 6. Repeat steps 2–5** for other scenarios, as time allows.

---

## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** Someone shows you clips from a comedy show she thinks is funny, but it makes you uncomfortable.

**Scenario 2:** Your sibling shows you videos of car crashes. They think it is funny when you say “stop.”

**Scenario 3:** One of your family members is always playing games with a lot of shooting in them. You liked it at first, but it is starting to bother you.

**Scenario 4:** You are playing a game with some other people, and you see one of them being really mean to the other player.

**Scenario 5:** Your cousin is hanging out at your house and you are watching videos together. They start watching a video that has naked people in it.

---

## Takeaway

You might see things in your life offline and online that make you uncomfortable. If you do not feel good about something you see, try and use your words to refuse them. Also, always report what you saw to an adult so they can help everyone stay safe.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 4.2

# Upsetting stuff online: What do I do?

Students learn to identify inappropriate online content and strategies for refusing it. Students also learn about reporting any content that suggests someone has or is about to hurt themselves or others.

**A special note for educators:** *If during or after this activity a student tells you about an instance of bullying, harassment, abuse, threats of violence or even suicidal ideation, that is usually a sign of trust, and it is very important that you honor that trust. Research suggests that students will often report sensitive information to an adult **only one time**. If that first report does not result in their feeling helped, students will not try again.*

*If a child reports something serious to you, follow these steps:*

- 1. Thank the student for being so brave and let them know you will talk with them more privately as soon as possible.*
- 2. Once you meet with them privately, thank them again and reassure them you will help keep them safe—or, if they are reporting about someone else—make sure that person gets the help they need.*
- 3. Listen to their report and believe what they say. If you feel comfortable, you can gently ask for more details, but do not push. It's your job to listen, not to be an investigator. If it is serious, report what you have heard to your school administrator and make sure they follow up*

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Recognize** upsetting content
- ✓ **Understand** they can refuse to watch or engage with it
- ✓ **Learn** some strategies for refusing it
- ✓ **Practice** the strategies, including reporting to an adult

### Let us talk



This activity will help you handle situations where people do, say or show you things online that make you upset or scared.

Raise your hand if you have ever seen content, comments or behaviour online that made you upset—it could be text, photos or video. *[Note number of hands.]*

*Write this sentence on the board and have your students copy it and fill in the blank:* "Something that upset me online was \_\_\_\_\_." On a piece of paper, write some examples that fill in the blank in this sentence on the board.

*As students are writing, walk around and look at their answers. Ask a few students if they are willing to share their answers with the class.*

You have the same right to feel as safe and comfortable online as you do here at school. You get to decide what you watch and who you talk with online. You can refuse to see anything that makes you upset. What this activity is all about is growing your refusal skills—skills everybody needs to have.

So what are some ways you can refuse upsetting things?

See if they come up with some of these examples: "Turn off your device." "Delete things people send you." "Block or remove senders." "Tell them you do not like whatever it is they are sharing."

Make sure they hear all of these options. Encourage students to share specifics of how they can refuse content on different platforms. This will also be a chance for you to learn more, for future discussions, about your students' experiences online. To maximize trust and communication, try to remain judgment-free.

Sometimes a person will keep doing things that upset you, or you will still feel upset about something even after it is gone. Sometimes you might not know how to handle a situation—which is just fine. Many **adults** don't know how to handle some situations too. What could you do in this situation?

See if they come up with this on their own: "Get help from an adult I trust."

Remember, just because you refuse does not mean you cannot also report the content or the behaviour. You can definitely do both.

If you need help and report what happened to an adult but they cannot help you, what should you do? ("Find another adult to report to.") I know reporting is not always easy. Experts say students often report things only once. So I want to tell you: Keep reporting until you find an adult who really helps you.

Who are some adults here at school that you trust to help you? (Various answers.) There are many of adults here who you can talk to if you need help.

Now we are going to practice refusing and reporting unwanted, upsetting or scary things.

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Scenarios (next page)
- One piece of paper with the word "Refuse" on it
- Another piece of paper with the word "Report" on it.

---

**1. Place the two signs** on opposite sides of the room.

**2. Choose a scenario** from the list and read it to the class, or create a relevant scenario of your own.

**3. Ask students** to think about whether they would refuse the scenario themselves or report what happened to an adult and ask for help.

**4. Have students move** to the side of the room corresponding to what they would do.

**5. Have each group discuss** what they'd say or do when refusing or reporting and why.

**6. Call on one student** from each group to demonstrate reporting and refusing.

**7. Repeat** with another scenario, as time allows.

Continued on the next page →

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## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** A friend of yours keeps using bad language in chats.

**Scenario 2:** You keep seeing sexist statements in a comment thread.

**Scenario 3:** Someone makes fun of a photo you are in.

**Scenario 4:** Someone says something racist about you.

**Scenario 5:** Someone asks you to send them a picture of you naked.

**Scenario 6:** You see a post saying someone is going to bring a gun to school.

---

## Takeaway

You might see things online that are just plain scary—like someone saying they are going to do something that might hurt themselves or someone else. In these situations, tell an adult right away so they can help everyone stay safe.

# What to do about mean stuff on screens

Students practise what to do the next time they see or hear something upsetting in a video, online game or TV show.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Understand** it's okay to feel scared or sad when you see something upsetting on (or off) a screen.
- ✓ **Know** they can refuse to watch upsetting things in a show, game or video.
- ✓ **Understand** how to refuse disturbing content.
- ✓ **Identify** who they can talk to if they see something upsetting.

## Let us talk



What are some of your favourite TV shows or online videos? [*Call on volunteers to share.*] Why do you like these shows? ("They are funny." "They have a lot of action, adventure, etc.") What emotions do you feel when you watch them? ("Happy." "Excited.")

We usually **like** watching TV shows or videos because they are entertaining, right? Who knows what the word "entertaining" means? [*Call on volunteers to share.*]

When a show is entertaining, it makes you feel good and you enjoy watching it. Maybe it makes you laugh or just relax, or you are interested because you are learning something new, or it is super exciting and you cannot wait to see what happens next.

But sometimes a show might **not** be entertaining because people or animals are really getting hurt, someone is really mean or scary or something is making you feel nervous or sad. Can anyone tell me about a video or show that they did not think was entertaining and why? [*Call on volunteers to share.*]

Today we are going to practise what you can do the next time you see or hear something upsetting on TV or the Internet.

- If you are watching a TV show or video by yourself and you see or hear something upsetting, you can turn it off. [*Write "Turn it off" on the board.*]
- If you are still upset after you turn it off, find an adult you trust to talk to about what you saw and how it made you feel. [*Write "Talk to a trusted adult" on the board.*]
- Who is a trusted adult you could talk to? [*Write students' ideas under "Trusted Adult" on the board.*] (Possible Answers: Mom, Dad, caregiver, teacher, etc.)
- If you are watching a TV show or online video with friends or family and you see or hear something upsetting, you can speak up and say how you feel. [*Write "Speak Up" on the board.*]
- For example, you could say, "This show is scary. Let us watch something else." What are some other things you could say? [*Write students' ideas on the board under "Speak Up."*] (Possible Answers: "I do not want to watch this because it makes me upset"; "Let us watch something we both like.")

If you speak up and someone keeps showing you things you do not like, you can always leave the room and tell a trusted adult.

Continued on the next page →

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## Activity



Let us practise speaking up when you see or hear something upsetting on TV or in a game or video and talking to an adult you trust. *[Help students pair up.]*

I am going to read a scenario, and you are going to take turns with your partner practicing what you would do in that situation. Let us do the first one together.

*Choose a scenario from the list below and have students work with their partners to decide how they would respond. After a few moments, call on volunteers to share. Continue working through the scenarios as time allows.*

---

## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** You are watching an online video with a family member. The person in the video is using swear words and saying mean things that upset you. You decide to speak up. What do you say? *[Turn and tell your partner what you would say.]*

**Scenario 2:** You are watching a new TV show alone. You are halfway through the first episode when something super scary happens. Argh! You cannot get it out of your mind, and now you are convinced it could happen to you. You decide to turn off the show and tell a trusted adult. *[Turn and tell your partner who you would tell and what you would say.]*

**Scenario 3:** You are watching online videos with your friends. One friend shows a video with naked people in it. You feel upset. You do not know how your friends feel, but you do not want to watch the video anymore. You decide to speak up. *[Turn and tell a partner what you would say.]*

**Scenario 4:** You are playing a multiplayer game online when you see one player intentionally messing up what other players are doing. Someone asks him to stop and he just laughs. *[Turn and tell a partner what you would say.]*

**Scenario 5:** Your cousins are playing video games with a lot of shooting in them. There are many people getting hurt. You ask them to play something else, but they ignore you. *[Turn and tell a partner what you would do.]*

**Scenario 6:** You are at a friend's house and you overhear a news story on TV that makes you feel really sad. When you get home, you decide to talk to a grownup you trust. *[Turn and tell your partner who you would tell and what you would say.]*

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## Takeaway

If a game, video or TV show makes you feel upset, it is okay not to watch it. Now you know how:

- If you are alone, turn it off.
- If you are still upset, talk to an adult you trust.
- If someone is showing it to you, speak up and say how you feel.
- If you speak up and they keep showing it to you, just leave and/or tell the person you trust.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 5.2

# Handling mean behaviour online

Students learn that behaviour, kind or mean, is just behaviour—whether online or offline. They explore ways to handle the mean behaviour so they can avoid contributing to the drama and escalating conflict.

## Goals for students



- ✓ **Recognize** how mean behaviour online can lead to conflicts at school.
- ✓ **Identify** ways to avoid escalating conflicts online.

## Let us talk



What are some reasons people act mean to each other online? (“Gossip.” “Disrespect.” “Misunderstandings.” “Being mean.”)

People can get into conflicts online for a lot of different reasons. We can avoid a lot of nastiness just by trying to show kindness to others—or just not getting involved. Sometimes it is a spillover from something that happened at school. Other times, though, people just say or do mean things out of the blue. Snap your fingers if you have ever seen or heard of someone doing any of these mean things: *[Note snaps.]*

- Posting disrespectful comments on photos or videos
- Spreading gossip or lies about someone else
- Pretending to be someone else in order to get them in trouble
- Name calling
- Using racist or homophobic language

Raise your hand if anyone has ever been mean to **you** online. *[Note the number of hands.]*

- How might you feel if someone said or did something mean to you online? (“Angry.” “Furious.” “Sad.” “Upset.”)
- Do you think you would ever be tempted to get back at them? (“Yes.” “No.”)

It is natural to feel angry when you think someone has done something mean. The urge to get back at them can be very strong. Think about what the consequences might be for trying to get back at someone. *[Give students time to think.]* Turn and tell your neighbour your ideas. *[After a minute, call on a few students at random to report.]* (“Start a big fight.” “Drama.” “Get many people involved.” “Get in trouble.”)

Responding to mean behaviour with more mean behaviour is a common way through which conflicts start or spread online. What are some other ways you could respond to mean behaviour that would not cause a conflict? (“Ignore it.” “Tell the person to stop.” “Block or remove the person.”)

When you are angry or upset, it can be easy to say or do something mean to the other person. It is important to calm down before you do anything else. One strategy for calming down is taking a few slow, deep breaths.

Continued on the next page →

*Have the class practise taking a few slow, deep breaths together.*

What are some other strategies you have used to calm down when you are angry or upset? ("Count backwards." "Tell myself not to worry." "Think about something happy.")

How would you feel if you saw someone being mean to someone else online? ("Mad." "Worried it could happen to me." "Upset." "Amused.")

- When people who see mean behaviour do not say anything, or they laugh or join in, what happens? ("They are encouraging more mean behaviour." "They are making people feel unwelcome." "They are being mean themselves.")
- When people stand up to mean behaviour, what can happen? ("People will realize it is not okay." "People will be kinder and more respectful.")

Snap your fingers if you have ever helped someone who was being treated meanly?

*[Note the number of snaps. Call on a few students to tell their stories of helping others.]*

How does it feel to help someone? ("It feels good.")

What should you do if you do not feel comfortable or safe standing up to mean behaviour you see? ("Get help from an adult.")

Now we are going to practise ways to respond to mean behaviour we see online.

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## Activity



### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Handling mean behaviour online" (one per group of 3-4 students)

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**1. Have students get in groups of 3-4** and give each group a worksheet.

**2. Have each group complete Section A** of the worksheet.

**3. Have groups trade worksheets.**

**4. Have each group complete Section B** of their new worksheet.

**5. Call on each group** to tell the class what they came up with.

---

## Takeaway

When you encounter mean behaviour online, it is important to respond appropriately. If you try to get back by responding with mean behaviour of your own, you can start a conflict or make something that started at school even worse—online or at school. If you take a moment to calm down and then respond in another way, you can avoid conflict.

If someone ever **keeps** being mean to you and you do not know how to make them stop, you should get help from an adult.



# Handling mean behaviour online

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## Section A

Write down one situation you might encounter where someone is being mean online.

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## Section B

How would you respond if this happened to you?

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Why would you respond this way?

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How would you respond if you saw this happening to someone else?

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Why would you respond this way?

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## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 6

# When to get help

One piece of advice that appears consistently throughout these lessons is: If students come across something that makes them feel uncomfortable or worse, encourage them to report it—be brave and talk to someone they trust who can help, including you, the principal, or a parent. Students should pick this up from any one of the lessons but, just to be sure, here is a class discussion focused specifically on the “when in doubt, talk it out” principle. Below you will find a list of situations in which talking it out can really help.

### Important notes for educators:

1. *Children have been taught or conditioned not to “tattle” for so many generations that it has become a social norm, and bullying prevention experts have been working hard to help children understand the difference between “telling” (tattling) and getting help. Help your students see that seeking support when hurtful things happen online is not “tattling;” it is about getting help for themselves or peers when people are getting hurt.*
2. *Fostering open communication in your classroom and reminding students you are always there for backup, supports students’ agency and appropriate reporting.*
3. *In the discussion below, any time students share about times they sought adult help, be sure the tone of the conversation is one that makes them feel proud and brave to have taken action, especially since they are speaking up in front of peers.*

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Recognize** that seeking help for oneself or others is a sign of strength.
- ✓ **Think out loud together** about situations where talking it out can really help.

### Let us talk



Here is a whole list of situations you might run into online. We may not get through them all, because I hope you will raise your hands when something on the list reminds you of a situation you have been in and what you did about it, so we can talk those situations out together.

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- Handout (select based on grade, one per student):
  - Scenarios for Grades 2–3
  - Scenarios for Grades 4–6

Please take a look at the scenarios below to complete the activity.

**Note to school leaders:** *Having a student panel or group of student leaders in your school (or a middle/high school in your district) mentor younger students about online situations like these can be a very effective way to teach, engage and empower younger students. If you already have a peer mentoring group at your school, have the mentors walk through the above scenarios with younger students and share their own experiences in navigating them.*

### Takeaway

It may not always **seem** like it, but being able to ask for help when you are not sure what to do is a brave thing to do. If it is to help you or someone heal from something hurtful or stop harm from happening, it is both smart and courageous.

# Scenarios for Grades 2-3

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1. **Silently read the list to yourselves.** While you do, think about whether any of those situations happened to you, whether you wanted to ask for help from an adult in any of them and if you did or not.
2. **Raise your hand** if you want to tell us what you did (or did not do) and why. If someone already picked one, see if you have a different one we can talk about.
3. **Let us discuss those situations.**

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## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** You need help to remember a password. [Ask a parent or older relative to help you go through the steps to create a new one.]

**Scenario 2:** Another gamer really likes your skin and offers to pay your game money for it—how do you decide?

**Scenario 3:** You see some really mean behaviour in a video and are not sure what to do about it.

**Scenario 4:** Another gamer asks for your age and where you live—do you tell them?

**Scenario 5:** A friend shows you a video that is really violent—someone gets hurt in it. What do you do?

**Scenario 6:** You want to do something about a comment you see online that is super mean. What do you do?

**Scenario 7:** Someone on the playground starts making fun of another child because they do not have a phone, and the child is really sad. What do you do about that?

**Scenario 8:** You are watching a video of cartoon characters and all of a sudden something really scary pops up in the middle of it.

# Scenarios for Grades 4-6

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1. **Silently read the list to yourselves.** While you do, think about whether any of those situations happened to you, whether you wanted to ask for help from an adult in any of them and if you did or not.
2. **Raise your hand** if you want to tell us what you did (or did not do) and why. If someone already picked one, see if you have a different one we can talk about.
3. **Let us discuss those situations.**

---

## Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** You have this feeling someone hacked into your account. What can you do to take back control? [Go to the app's or site's Help section, and go through the steps they have to show you are the owner, then log in and change your password—and do not share it with anyone but a parent.]

**Scenario 2:** You are unsure if something was a scam and think you might have fallen for one.

**Scenario 3:** Another gamer starts asking of you stuff that has nothing to do with the game and it seems cringey—do you answer them?

**Scenario 4:** You hear someone being racist in a game chat.

**Scenario 5:** You are concerned you may have shared something online you should not have (only tell us what it was if you feel comfortable sharing that, but even if you do not, tell us what you did about it).

**Scenario 6:** You saw someone threatening to start a fight or harm someone.

**Scenario 7:** Someone is posting bad stuff about themselves online, and it makes you worry about them.

## When in Doubt, Talk It Out: Lesson 7

# Report it online, too

Using a school device to demonstrate where to go to report inappropriate content and behaviour in apps, the class considers various types of content, decides whether to report it, and talks about why or why not.

### Goals for students



- ✓ **Know** about apps' and services' community standards, or terms of service.
- ✓ **Be aware** of online tools for reporting abuse.
- ✓ **Consider** when to use them.
- ✓ **Talk about** why and when to report the abuse.

### Let us talk



When meFatimass and other inappropriate content turn up online, people have options for taking action. In the last activity we talked about the most important one: talking it out with someone you trust. That can help you figure out the best ways to help. Another option is to report it to the app or service where you find it, which can help get the content deleted. It is important to get used to checking terms of service or community rules of the apps and using their reporting tools.

Students should get in the habit of taking a screenshot of conversation or activity that is harmful or suspicious **before** using blocking and reporting tools (which could make a record of the activity go away). This ensures that trusted adults can **see** what happened and help resolve this situation.

### Activity



#### Materials needed:

- Worksheet: "Report it online, too" (one per student)

**1. Look for community rules.** Grab as many devices as your class has access to. If there are several, divide the class into groups. Together, find the terms of service in at least 3 school-related accounts and look for a rule about harassment or bullying.

**2. Figure out how to report a problem.** Find the tools for reporting inappropriate content or behaviour for the apps and sites. (If there is only one device or computer in the room, have groups of students take turns at that screen.)

**3. Go through the scenarios.** Everyone sits down and, as a class, goes through the situations on the worksheet on the next page.

**4. Would you report it?** Ask students to raise their hands if they would report the content; then ask them to raise their hands if they would not report it.

**5. If so, why?** Ask someone who would report it to tell the class why, and ask someone who would not report it to do the same.

*Note: Seldom is there just one right answer or approach. Make sure everybody knows this before class discussion begins.*

### Takeaway

Most apps and services have tools for reporting and/or blocking inappropriate content, and it can help the people involved, their community, and the platforms themselves if we use those tools. Before blocking or reporting inappropriate content, it's always wise to take a screenshot so that you have a record of the situation.

# Report it online, too

Read each scenario below and raise your hand if you would report it in the app or service where you found it. Ask for someone who would and someone who would not raise their hand and explain why they chose that option, then discuss those choices as a class. (Everybody should know that there is seldom one right choice to make, which is why discussion is helpful. No one should feel bad about what they chose to do. Even adults do not always know when or how to report.)

## Situation 1

Another student posts a group photo in a public account, and you hate the way you look in it. Would you report that photo or not? If you know who posted it, would you talk with the person and ask them to take it down? How can you respond?

## Situation 2

Someone creates an account of a student you know using their name and photo. They turned the photo into a meme and drew a moustache and other weird facial features on it, turning the photo into a joke. Would you report the account?

## Situation 3

Someone posts many mean comments about a student in your school without using their name, but you have a feeling you know who it is. Would you report those comments or not and, if you would, how?

## Situation 4

A student creates an account with your school's name in the screen name and posts students' photos with comments that everybody hears about. Some of the comments are mean to students, some are compliments. Do you report the mean comments, the whole account, or both?

## Situation 5

One night, you notice that a student has made a comment online saying they're going to fight with another student in the lunchroom the next day. Do you report that comment online or not? Do you report it to a teacher or principal the next morning, or not? Both?

## Situation 6

You're watching a cartoon video and all of a sudden there's some weird content in it that's definitely not appropriate for kids and makes you feel uncomfortable. Do you report it or not?

## Situation 7

You're playing an online game with friends and someone none of the players know starts chatting with you. They're not being mean or anything, but you don't know them. Do you ignore them or report them?

