

Staying Smart and Safe Online

Textbook

Staying Smart and Safe Online



How Can You Tell if Online Information Is Reliable?

Not everything you read on the internet is true. To decide if a source is reliable, ask yourself a few questions: Who wrote it? Is the author an expert? Is the website up to date? Does it give evidence or sources for its claims? Trusted sites often end in **.edu**, **.gov**, or **.org**, and they clearly list where their information came from. If a website makes wild claims or seems too good to be true—it probably is!

Downloading? Stick with Trusted Sources

Downloading a file from the internet can be helpful—or harmful. That's why it's important to only download apps, games, or files from trusted sources. Sites like official app stores (like the Apple App Store or Google Play Store) are usually safe. But if you're on a random site with lots of pop-ups or strange ads, stay away! Downloading from untrusted sources can install viruses or malware on your device.

Is This Website Safe? Here's How to Tell

There are a few simple signs to check if a website is safe:

- Look for **https** in the address bar. The **"s"** stands for **secure**.

- Look for a **lock icon** next to the web address.
- Be cautious if the site asks for personal information like your address or phone number without a good reason.
- If the site has lots of typos, strange images, or doesn't seem professional, it might not be trustworthy.

Think Before You Click

Before you trust a site, take a moment to evaluate it. Ask:

- Does it make sense for this site to ask for my personal info?
- Do I recognize this organization?
- Does the information match what I've read on other trustworthy sites?

If something seems off, talk to a parent, teacher, or trusted adult. Being cautious online is one of the best ways to stay safe.

Critical Thinking Questions

1. What clues can you use to decide whether a website is trustworthy and secure?
2. Why is it risky to download files or apps from unfamiliar websites?

Questions (5)

1. Which of these is a sign that a website is secure?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. It has flashy ads and pop-ups
- B. It uses http instead of https
- C. It shows a lock icon in the address bar
- D. It asks for your password right away

2. What should you do before downloading something from the internet?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Click quickly before it disappears
- B. Ask a friend if they downloaded it
- C. Only check if it looks fun
- D. Make sure it's from a trusted source

3. Why is it important to check who wrote the information on a website?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. To make sure they are trustworthy and know what they're talking about
- B. To see if they are popular
- C. To know if they are funny
- D. To get their phone number

4. Which of the following websites is likely to be most reliable?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. mycoolblog.info
- B. randomvideos.net
- C. sciencefacts.gov
- D. wowdeals4u.biz

5. What is one reason you should avoid unsafe websites?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. They might charge you money
- B. They could infect your device with malware
- C. They might have boring content
- D. They don't work on mobile devices

Answer Keys & Solutions

Questions

1. Which of these is a sign that a website is secure?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- A. It has flashy ads and pop-ups ✗ Incorrect
- B. It uses http instead of https ✗ Incorrect
- C. It shows a lock icon in the address bar ✓ Correct
- D. It asks for your password right away ✗ Incorrect

2. What should you do before downloading something from the internet?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- A. Click quickly before it disappears ✗ Incorrect
- B. Ask a friend if they downloaded it ✗ Incorrect
- C. Only check if it looks fun ✗ Incorrect
- D. Make sure it's from a trusted source ✓ Correct

3. Why is it important to check who wrote the information on a website?

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Correct Answer:

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- C. To know if they are funny ✗ Incorrect
- D. To get their phone number ✗ Incorrect

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Correct Answer:

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| B. randomvideos.net | ✗ Incorrect |
| C. sciencefacts.gov | ✓ Correct |
| D. wowdeals4u.biz | ✗ Incorrect |

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Correct Answer:

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| C. They might have boring content | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. They don't work on mobile devices | ✗ Incorrect |