

Don't get scammed: Recognizing online fraud

1. Warm-up: Are you a savvy online shopper?

Discuss these questions with a partner:

- How often do you book things like flights or hotels online?
- What do you look for to make sure a website is safe and real?
- Have you ever seen an online offer that seemed "too good to be true"? What was it?

2. Vocabulary: The language of online scams

Match the vocabulary words with their correct definitions.

1. Scam	a. The small text in a contract with important details that people often don't read.
2. Legitimate	b. A sign that something is wrong or that there is a problem.
3. Copycat site	c. If you can get your money back for a product or service you are not happy with.

4. Suspicious	d. Real, legal, and official.
5. Fine print	e. A separate person or company involved in a transaction besides the main two.
6. Refundable	f. A dishonest plan for making money or getting an advantage by tricking people.
7. A red flag	g. A fake website that is designed to look exactly like a real one to trick users.
8. Third party	h. Feeling that you do not trust someone or something.

3. Video: How to spot travel scams

You are going to watch a news report about online travel scams. Watch the video and answer the questions below.

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

First viewing: General understanding

Watch the video once. What are the two main types of travel scams mentioned?

Second viewing: Checking details

Watch the video again. Are the following statements true or false?

1. Copycat websites can steal your money or put viruses on your computer. (True / False)
2. These scams often begin with a targeted ad on social media. (True / False)

3. The expert advises that if you see a special offer, you should take it immediately. (True / False)
4. Scammers sometimes create fake customer service numbers that appear in online search results. (True / False)
5. Booking through a third-party website is always completely safe. (True / False)
6. Receiving a text or private social media message about a booking is a big red flag. (True / False)

4. Useful phrases: Giving warnings and advice

The video uses many phrases to give advice. Complete the sentences below with a phrase from the box.

Be careful

Double check

Make sure that

Don't pay until

Watch out for

1. This email looks strange. _____ you open any attachments.
2. When buying things online, you need to _____ fake reviews. They are very common.
3. Before you enter your password, _____ the website address is correct and starts with "https."
4. That offer seems too cheap to be true. _____, it might be a scam.
5. My dad isn't great with computers. I told him to _____ everything before he buys something.

5. Grammar focus: Using the imperative

We use the **imperative** to give direct advice, instructions, or warnings. It's very common when talking about online safety.

- To form the positive imperative, we use the base form of the verb. (e.g., **Check** the website. **Call** the official number.)
- For the negative imperative, we use **Don't** + base verb. (e.g., **Don't click** that link. **Don't share** your password.)

Your friend is in the situations below. Give them some good advice using the positive or negative **imperative**.

1. "I received a text message saying I won a new phone! It has a link to claim my prize."

→ *Example: **Don't click the link! Delete the message.***

2. "I found a website selling designer bags for 90% off. Should I buy one?"

→

3. "The person on the phone says they're from my bank and they need my credit card password to stop a scam."

→

4. "This hotel booking site wants me to pay them directly with a bank transfer, not a credit card."

→

5. "I'm not sure if this is the official airline website. The address looks a little strange."

→

6. Speaking practice: Is this deal for real?

Work with a partner to role-play this situation. Use vocabulary, phrases, and grammar from today's lesson.

Student A: The excited traveler

You want to book a holiday. You found an amazing offer on a website you saw on social media. It's a 7-night, all-inclusive trip to Spain for only \$200! The website says you must book in the next 30 minutes to get this special price. Tell your friend (Student B) about your amazing deal.

Student B: The careful friend

You think your friend's amazing offer sounds like a scam. Ask them questions to check if the website is legitimate. Give them advice on what to do before they pay any money. Start by saying something like, "That sounds too good to be true..."

Ideas for questions: What's the website's name? Does it look professional? Can you find reviews for it? What does the cancellation policy say?

7. Your online safety checklist

Based on today's lesson, work with a partner to create a quick checklist of 3-5 of the most important things to do before you buy or book something online.

My Online Safety Checklist:

1. _____
2. _____

3.

4.

5.