

1 In the real world, the rules of social behaviour are often cultural and are instilled in us from a young age. Online, rules can be harder to see, and it is not always clear what they actually are. In addition, the fact that online actions are often **anonymous** means it is sometimes tempting to use the Internet as a place to speak or behave in ways we wouldn't in reality. It's important to place the same filter on our online behaviour as we do on our real-world behaviour; before you post something, re-read it and think about who might see it and whether you would be comfortable saying it out loud to someone in real life. If the answer is no, perhaps it's better to press the delete button.

2 The Internet has made content easier to create, and this is an opportunity that is open to everyone. However, the other side of this is that we must be more alert to what we read. Why was this content created? By whom? Just as in our offline lives, there are many things online which can influence or mislead us. This may be something obvious, like an advert designed to attract us to click on it, or it could be something more **subtle** - such as an article written to persuade readers to adopt a certain point of view, or even just an informational site that is outdated or incorrect. We need to exercise good judgment when deciding what we trust, particularly if we want to use that information or pass it on to others.

3 While it is easy to understand when something doesn't belong to you in the real world, it can sometimes be less clear online whether information belongs to someone else or is free to use. Digital tools are a great way of making content available to **vast** numbers of people, and many people distribute content for free to create an audience. However, the rule to remember is: just because something is available doesn't mean you can take it. It is our responsibility to make sure that we respect other people's property - which means not using anything we find online for ourselves without first asking permission.

4 As in the real world, treat people the way you would want to be treated. However, while we have a responsibility to respect the privacy of others, we are also responsible for making sure that we ourselves behave in a way that limits the possibilities of other people disturbing our own **privacy**. This means, for example, not making personal details available online, making online purchases only from websites you trust, and making sure we use secure passwords to keep our data protected from others.

a. Think Critically

b. Respect the Privacy of Others and Yourself

c. Behave Responsibly

d. Exercise Honesty