SCAM BAITING



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Expemo code:
1FX7-J1LF-598

1 Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think is the meaning of 'scam baiting'?
2. In this situation, it means deliberately wasting scammer's time by pretending to be interested in their business.
3. What different types of scams are you aware of?
4. What do you think is the best way to protect yourself from being the victim of a scam?



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2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the words in bold in sentences (a-h) with their correct definitions.

1. advertising material, usually sent by email, to people who have shown no interest in the services or products provided (n)
2. make someone want to know more about a particular topic or event (v)
3. a person whose job is to collect and interpret data (n)
4. change a decision or a previous statement of intent, often due to encountering opposition (v)
5. open to physical or emotional damage due to lack of protection (adj.)
6. having been written by someone who wasn't using their real name to identify themselves (adj.)
7. the process of making something bigger than before (n)
8. official permission to take a particular action (n)

a. It's vital to use a VPN and other security measures when working online to avoid leaving your computer **vulnerable** to attack by criminals.

b. Samuel Clemens was possibly most famous for his **pseudonymous** works which included *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and others published under the pen name of Mark Twain.

c. So tell me more about your trip to Latin America. I've never been and I'm **intrigued** to know what it was like.

d. The government's claims that they had consistently reduced the cost of living were questioned by a **statistician** who had drawn up a series of charts proving otherwise.

e. If you've not received my email, it would be a good idea to check your **spam** folder in case it has been sent there inadvertently.

f. Following widespread demonstrations, the government was forced to **backpedal** on their plans to raise taxes by 2% for fear of losing the next election.

g. After 30 years, Kenneth Simons will be retiring as CEO having overseen the **enlargement** of the company from a small office employing just ten people, to an international enterprise.

h. I'm just waiting to receive **authorisation** for my travel visa to Cambodia and then I'll book my flights.

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Part B: What do the following idioms or sayings mean? Write their definitions below.

1. the game is afoot

_____

2. hold tight

_____

3. run the numbers

_____

4. tug your heartstrings

_____

5. out of hand

_____

6. knock it on the head

_____

7. gone too far

_____

3 Understanding the video

Part A: You are going to watch a video about what happens when you reply to a spam email. Watch the first part of the video (00:00 - 03:45) and answer the following questions with one or two words.

1. What's the name of the presenter? _____
2. Who did he receive an email from? _____
3. What did he want the presenter to do? _____
4. What does the presenter say he does for a living? _____
5. What does the man say he hopes to buy if the deal is a success? _____

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Part B: Watch the second part of the video (03:35 - 09:35) and choose the best answer to each of the questions.

1. The reason the presenter was talking about hummus was due to
   a. how his diet works.
   b. how he plans to invest.
   c. how ridiculous it is.

2. How long did the period of contact last?
   a. days
   b. weeks
   c. months

3. How did it affect the presenter's life?
   a. He left work assignments incomplete.
   b. He was physically affected.
   c. It dampened his social life.

4. The code devised by the presenter involved using code names which were all
   a. different confectionery.
   b. famous actors.
   c. well-known rappers

5. Why was the presenter pleased to receive the email?
   a. The man was obliged to use the code.
   b. He was made a large offer of money.
   c. The authorities had intervened.

6. What does the presenter say in favour of his actions?
   a. What he is doing causes no harm to anyone.
   b. He helps police locate the scammers.
   c. He prevents scammers from finding real victims.

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7. Who did the second email allegedly come from?
   a. an Asian movie star
   b. an African politician
   c. a Latin American singer

8. What's funny about the presenter's reply?
   a. He's deliberately confusing a sign off for a song title.
   b. The words he's using have double meanings.
   c. He's confusing the sender with a famous singer.



4 Skimming for gist

You are going to read the article about types of modern scams. Skim the text on page six and put the following extracts a-f into the correct gaps in the article. You will not need all the extracts.

a. This can then be used as the basis for future scams and can create a sense of trust as the scammer will already know some of your personal details when they call.

b. The best advice here is to never send anyone money unless you have known them for some years and have met them in person.

c. As with phishing, it's an attempt to get your bank details and target your earnings.

d. Romance scams tend to play on the emotions of the target with the scammer saying that they are in danger, or need money for something urgent.

e. Even if you've alerted the bank, they will be hard-pressed to take any legal action.

f. This is so standard now that online mail accounts often have a tab for these automated types of emails to separate them from that birthday message from your aunt or your travel plans with friends.

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Watch out!

Types of modern scams

A. Marketing departments frequently employ email and texts to keep companies in touch with their customer base and inform them of new products, sales and potential discounts. _____[1] Yet hiding in there could well be a message from someone impersonating a company in an attempt to get your personal information in a scam known as phishing. They generally contain links that will take you to a fake website where fraudsters will encourage you to enter personal information including bank details. _____[2] The best way to avoid these is to never click on links in unsolicited emails and texts and if there's an offer made that is of interest to you, go and look for it on the company's website first.

B. Related to phishing is 'vishing' - a combination of 'voice' and 'phishing' - where you will receive a call from a scammer who pretends to be your bank. They will often use a false emergency, such as a security breach and the bank and ask you to move your money to a new account. They may even encourage you to call them by saying that a high value item has been charged to your account and you need to call a given number if you don't recognise it. _____[3] Should you receive an unexpected call from your bank, tell them you will get back to them and phone the bank's number on your card.

C. Dating apps are such a convenient and familiar way to begin a relationship these days that people quickly forget they don't always know who they are really talking to when they match with someone. _____[4] This will usually happen once the victim has been made to feel special and is personally invested in the person they have met, having been groomed over a period of time. The effects can be devastating emotionally and financially as it's natural for anyone to build a picture in their head of the person they are speaking to without realising they're being taken for a ride. _____[5] Even then, caution is advised.

source: which.co.uk



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5 Reading comprehension

Complete the gaps in the following sentences using no more than three words from the article on page six.

1. The need to stay _____ with potential customers means most companies have ways of obtaining our email addresses for marketing.
2. Fake emails created by scammers encourage you to link to a _____ where they will take your personal details while convincing you that you're dealing with a trusted company.
3. If an _____ is made via email that is of interest to you, be sure to go to the official website of the company to find it for safety.
4. Scammers often create a _____ which panics people into calling them for help and also makes it less likely they will think clearly.
5. Should someone from your bank phone you when it is _____, always put the phone down and call the bank directly.
6. It's very common for people to search for relationships on the internet now hoping to _____ with their ideal partner.
7. Romance scammers are skilled at making their victim _____ and therefore won't realise that they're being targeted.
8. The consequences of romance scams can be deeply destructive both _____ for the victim and they may never truly recover.

6 Talking point

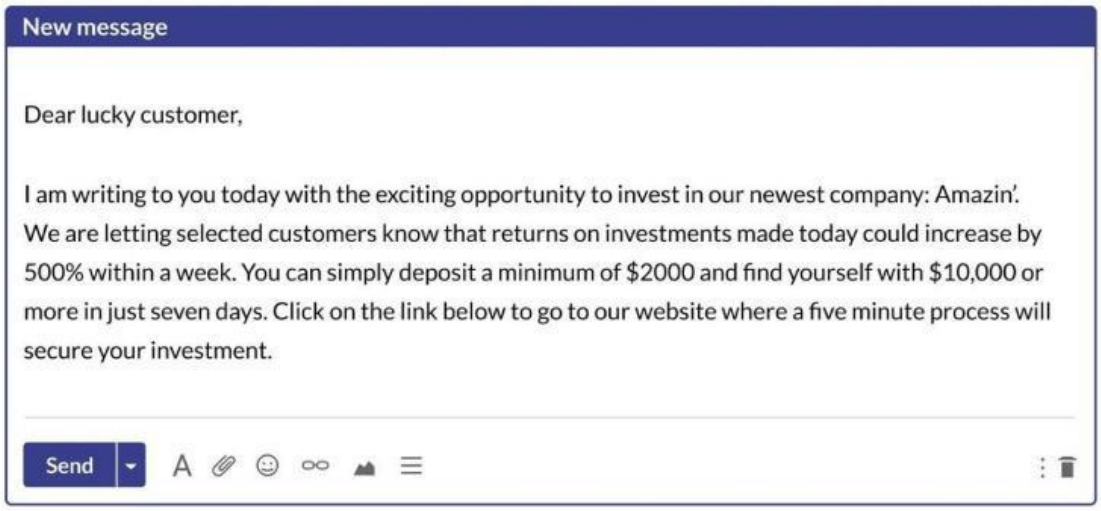
In pairs discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think can be done to combat scammers more effectively?
2. Do you know anyone who has been the victim of a scam? What happened?
3. What kind of person do you think works as a scammer?
4. Do you think a scammer is the same as a thief? Why/Why not?
5. Why do you think some people are drawn to being a scammer rather than other types of crime?

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7 Optional extension / homework

Read the email below and do the following task.



Write a response to the email making up interesting details about yourself and your reason for wanting to invest. You can make this as serious or as humorous as you would like.

You should:

- write at least 250 words,
- check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.

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