Academic Progress 5
Listening and Speaking
Unit 2 – Avoiding Identity Theft

Reading Passage

Identity theft happens when someone uses another person's personal information without permission. Criminals can **authorize** a **purchase** with your credit card, or even open a bank account in your name. Many people do not notice until they see a strange **charge** on their account.

If you become a **victim** of identity theft, you need to **confirm** which actions are yours and which are not. It is important to keep **proof of identification** ready, such as your passport or national ID, when speaking to the bank. This helps them to **deal with** the problem faster.

Sometimes, people discover that their personal details were **exposed** online. When this happens, they may feel **paranoid** about every email or phone call. It is natural to feel nervous, but there are steps you can take. First, **file a complaint** with the authorities. Second, check your accounts often and report anything unusual.

Identity theft is serious, but you can protect yourself. Be careful with your information, never share your passwords, and always check before you **authorize** a payment.

Vocabulary Practice

Match the words to their meanings:

1. authorize	a. to allow or give permission
2. charge	b. someone who suffers from a crime
3. confirm	c. an official action to report a problem
4. file a complaint	d. nervous or overly worried about something
5. proof of identification	e. a document that shows who you are
6. victim	f. to check or make sure something is true
7. paranoid	g. to solve or handle a situation
8. purchase	h. left unprotected or uncovered
9. deal with	i. an item you buy
10. exposed	j. an amount of money taken from an account

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Discussion Questions **-**Be prepared to discuss in class.

1. Why do you think identity theft has become more common in the modern world?

2. What steps can you take to protect your personal information?

3. Have you or someone you know ever had to deal with a problem related to online safety? What

happened?

4. Do you think people today are too paranoid about security, or not careful enough? Why?

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