



Extra training

Listening and Reading Task 132

1. Listen to four people who have been victims of cybercrime. Match the people to the crime.

1. email spam
2. computer virus
3. phishing
4. illegal downloading
5. identity theft

A	B	C	D

2. Read the text and match the headings to the paragraphs. There is one extra heading.

1. Common mistake
2. Start right
3. How they hack
4. Filter your mail
5. Criminal minds

A	B	C	D

Cybercrime

A How would you feel if your computer was hijacked and used to send nasty emails to your friends, or if a virus destroyed all your data? Well, this happens more often than you might think. In fact, in the UK alone hundreds of thousands of private computers are hacked every year. The people behind these attacks are called 'crackers' or 'hackers'. Hackers are highly intelligent programmers who can easily break into computer systems. They use their expert knowledge and skills to gain access and can then steal data or infect computers with a virus or a worm. If you want to surf safely and protect your computer you need to protect yourself against these cybercrimes.

B When creating an email account you should choose a good username for your email address. Don't use your own name and don't include anything in your username that could indicate your age or home address. Avoid usernames like *cool13yrs* or *nicegirl*. Instead use a word from the dictionary that appeals to you or a secret code that only means something to you. Choose a smart and difficult to guess password consisting of a combination of letters and numbers. Your date of birth or the name of your pet would be very bad choices. Finally, don't share your password with anyone and change it regularly.

C Most people actually have their email account hacked due to their own fault. Allowing your computer to remember your password is one mistake that could cost a lot. Don't put yourself at risk. You should always set your account so that you have to type in your password each time and always log out properly so that if someone uses or steals your computer they can't access your email.

D Some email providers give you the option of being listed in an online directory so they can contact you with offers. Don't list your email unless you want to receive lots of spam mail. Don't open any emails from people you don't know but delete them instead. Likewise, don't open any attachments unless they were run through an anti-virus program and never reply to spam or any offensive or harassing messages. Finally, keep your software updated and run anti-virus scans regularly. It's one of the best ways to protect your computer and stay safe.

