

## Identity Theft

### Pre-Listening Exercise

Identity theft is a rising problem, and as a result, what are some of the dangers of using the internet when you shop for things like clothing, electronics, or other personal items?

### Idioms



**"steal someone's heart"** = cause someone to fall in love

*"James stole Maria's heart with his powerful romantic music on his guitar."*

**"five-finger discount"** = shoplift or steal good from a store

*"Brian said he got a five-finger discount on his shoes, but that was completely wrong. He should return them."*

**Listening Exercise.** Listen and answer the questions.

*The man is looking at a Web site that helps people improve their \_\_\_\_\_ skills.*

writing

reading

computer

*According to the man, how much does the Web service cost?*

\$10 a month

\$5 a month

free

*The Web site asks for the man's name, birthday, and \_\_\_\_\_ information.*

bank

job

family

*The woman feels that the Web site can't be trusted because \_\_\_\_\_.*

the site uses poor English

the site charges  
too much money

the site's design is terrible

*The woman \_\_\_\_\_ to protect her brother from the Web site.*

calls the police

turns the computer off

blocks the Web site

## Vocabulary Practice

The Web site on free travel is a real \_\_\_\_\_. Be careful. I wouldn't trust it.

identity

I would put important documents in a safe. They are more \_\_\_\_\_ that way.

scam

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ for anything on that Web site. You can't trust it.

secure

My brother is so \_\_\_\_\_. He will believe anything you tell him.

sign up

You need to take steps to protect your \_\_\_\_ more. You just can't trust people with your credit card number.

gullible

## Post-Listening Exercise

Which of these things would you do or not do on the internet? Explain your ideas:

- buy a car
- rent a car
- make a reservation for a hotel room
- find someone to date and marry
- order a pizza
- pay government taxes
- purchase clothing

## Further Discussion...

- What are the warning signs of an internet scam?
- What things can you do to protect yourself from such danger?
- What should you do if you become a victim of identity theft?
- What website services exist to protect consumers from identity theft?

**Transcript.** Listen to the recording on identity theft and read along with the conversation. Review the key vocabulary and the sample sentences.

**Woman:** Hey, Brandon. What are you doing?

**Man:** Oh, You'll like this. It's a new website that helps you **improve** your writing skills for free.

**Woman:** Really? [Yeah.] That'd be really helpful.

**Man:** Yeah and I'm **signing up** right now.

**Woman:** Wow. Let me see that.

**Man:** Yeah. It's easy. You just enter your name, your birthday, your address, your bank information. [What?] Your credit card number.

**Woman:** Wait, wait, wait. [What?] I thought you said it was free.

**Man:** It IS free.

**Woman:** Then, why do they need your bank and your credit card information?

**Man:** Well, you know, it's just, you know, just . . . just to check your **identity** or something like that. But it, but it's all free. What?

**Woman:** [That] doesn't sound free to me.

**Man:** Well, you don't understand.

**Woman:** It sounds pretty **fishy** to me. How do you know that this is a trusted website? Look. That doesn't look like a **secure** URL.

**Man:** Well, you don't understand. Look. It says right here on their page. Right here: "Our goal is help you learn. Trusting us. We know how to help you in 15 days or, or below." What? What?

**Woman:** That's terrible English. Who wrote this? What country are they in? You need to help THEM with their English. I mean, this is a sure sign that they're trying to probably steal your personal information [No . . .] and your identity.

**Man:** No, no, no, and look. Here is a picture of some of their staff. And they look honest. Hey . . .

**Woman:** You are so **gullible**.

**Man:** Hey, hey. What are you doing?

**Woman:** I'm shutting down your computer. I can't watch my own brother **fall for** a **scam** like this.

**Man:** Ah. You just don't understand.

## Vocabulary and Sample Sentences

- **improve** (verb): make something better
  - I'm going to improve my English by taking an online class.
  - Do you know how to run this copy machine? I can't figure it out.
- **sign up** (verb): put or write your name on a list to join something
  - Are you going to sign up for math class this semester?
- **identity** (noun): the name of a person, who you are
  - You can protect your identity better by not sharing your personal information online.
- **fishy** (adjective): untrue or dishonest
  - Be careful. This advertisement looks a little fishy. I mean, how can this company give you a free vacation to Hawaii just for testing their products?
- **secure** (adjective): safe, protected from danger
  - Please make sure the house is secure before you leave today.
- **gullible** (adjective): easily fooled, tricked, or cheated
  - You are so gullible. I can't believe you bought the phone on the internet without seeing it first or getting the real name of the seller.
- **fall for** (verb): be fooled by something
  - I can't believe that you fell for that scam. You'll never get your money back
- **scam** (noun): a dishonest way to make money by fooling someone
  - This website on getting a free education online is only a scam to get your money.