

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.

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

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

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

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

identity

scam

secure

sign up

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 knows 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.