# 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

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**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?

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**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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS