

TEACHER ANSWER KEY · GRADES 6-8

# Spot the scam

## Worksheet 1: Scam, Probably fine or Check first?

| CARD                                                                                                                                                                                       | BELONGS IN           | WHY                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Game chat, from a player named FreeGemz_Official_Admin: 'Congrats, you were picked for 10,000 free gems. Log in at gem-rewards-claim.example in the next 15 minutes or the prize expires.' | <b>Scam</b>          | A player account pretending to be staff, a countdown and a login on an outside site. Real games do not hand out currency through chat links.     |
| Text from 555-0187: 'ALERT: Your game account will be deleted today for a rules violation. Verify your account now: acct-verify-help.example/login'                                        | <b>Scam</b>          | A threat, a deadline and a lookalike link asking you to log in. Account problems show up inside the real app, not in a random text.              |
| DM from someone in a game server you joined last week: 'Hey sorry, I accidentally put your number for my code. Can you read me the 6-digit code you just got?'                             | <b>Scam</b>          | The code is for your account. The person is trying to log in as you and needs your code to finish. Never share it.                               |
| Livestream chat during a gaming stream: 'GIVEAWAY: First 50 people to send 200 coins to TopPlayerGifts get 2,000 coins back. Hurry.'                                                       | <b>Scam</b>          | Send first, get more later is a classic fake giveaway. The rush and the 'first 50' limit are pressure tricks.                                    |
| Friend request and DM from a stranger: 'Download this free skin unlocker file. Works on every game, trust me. skin-unlocker-free.example/download'                                         | <b>Scam</b>          | Free 'unlocker' downloads often carry malware or steal your login. Only install from the real app store, with a parent's okay.                   |
| DM from a player in your game clan: 'Trade me your rare sword now and I'll give you two of them tomorrow. Everyone in the clan does it.'                                                   | <b>Scam</b>          | Give now, get paid later is how item scams work, and the trade usually cannot be undone. 'Everyone does it' is peer pressure.                    |
| A news notice inside the game's own menu screen, not in chat: 'Season 4 starts Friday. New maps and challenges.' No link and no request.                                                   | <b>Probably fine</b> | It appears inside the real game, asks for nothing and has no link. Information only.                                                             |
| Text in your team's group chat from your coach's number that is already saved in your phone: 'Practice moved to 4:30 in the gym because of rain.'                                          | <b>Probably fine</b> | A known contact, an expected topic and no link, login or money request.                                                                          |
| Text that arrives seconds after you tried to log in to your game on a new tablet: 'Your verification code is 482913. Do not share this code with anyone.'                                  | <b>Probably fine</b> | You asked for this code yourself, so it is expected. Use it to log in, and do not share it with anyone.                                          |
| DM from your cousin's account: 'omg is this you in this video??' followed by a short link. Your cousin never writes like that.                                                             | <b>Check first</b>   | Your cousin's account may have been taken over. Do not click. Text or call your cousin another way to check.                                     |
| Email that looks like it is from the game company: 'New sign-in from a new device in another state. If this wasn't you, secure your account here.' It has a button.                        | <b>Check first</b>   | It could be real or fake. Do not use the button. Open the game or app yourself and check your security settings and recent sign-ins.             |
| A code text you did not ask for arrives at 11 p.m.: 'Your login code is 739204.' No other message comes with it.                                                                           | <b>Check first</b>   | Someone may be trying your password. Do not share the code. Open the real app, change your password, turn on two-step sign-in and tell an adult. |

## Worksheet 2: Scam-spotter crossword



### Across

4. Fake one says 'send 200 coins, get 2,000 back' **GIVEAWAY**
7. Tell the game or app about a scammer so they can act **REPORT**
9. Do not tap this in a suspicious message; open the app yourself instead **LINK**
10. The 'hurry up' feeling scammers create with countdowns and threats **URGENCY**
12. Harmful software that can hide in a 'free unlocker' download **MALWARE**

**Down**

1. A fake message that pretends to be from someone you trust to steal a login or information **PHISHING**
2. Secret you never type on a page you reached from a suspicious message **PASSWORD**
3. When someone else gets into your account and uses it: account \_\_\_\_ **TAKEOVER**
5. Scam texts tell you to do this to your account using their link **VERIFY**
6. The kind of adult you tell when something online feels wrong **TRUSTED**
8. Stop an account from contacting you again **BLOCK**
11. The short number texted to you when you log in. Never share it. **CODE**

## Scenario cards

| CARD                                   | MODEL ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. The free gems pop-up</b>         | Do not click. Report and block the account. If you want to check for real rewards, open the game's own store or menu.<br>Real staff do not send prizes through chat links, and the countdown is there to rush you.                                   |
| <b>2. The code read-back</b>           | They are trying to log in to your account. Do not send it. Stop replying, report, block, change your password and tell an adult.<br>A code only goes to the phone linked to the account being logged in to. Anyone asking for it wants your account. |
| <b>3. Your account will be deleted</b> | Do not tap the link. Open the game yourself and check for any messages there. Delete and report the text as junk.<br>Threats and deadlines are pressure tricks. Real account notices appear inside the real app.                                     |
| <b>4. Best friend, strange message</b> | Text, call or ask your friend in person. Do not log in through the link.<br>Taken-over accounts are used to scam friends, because people trust friends.                                                                                              |
| <b>5. Move to another app</b>          | Moving to another app hides the conversation from the game's safety tools. Say no, report the account and tell a trusted adult.<br>Scammers and people with bad intentions try to move away from platforms where they can be reported.               |
| <b>6. Trade first, pay later</b>       | Decline. Only use the game's official trade window where both sides confirm at once, or do not trade.<br>Most item trades cannot be reversed, and 'pay you tomorrow' rarely happens.                                                                 |
| <b>7. I already clicked</b>            | Tell a trusted adult now. Open the real app and change your password, turn on two-step sign-in, check your items and warn friends not to click links from you.<br>Acting fast can save the account. Nobody gets in trouble for reporting a mistake.  |
| <b>8. The unlocker download</b>        | No. Do not download it. Only install apps from the official store with a parent's okay.<br>Free unlockers often hide malware or steal logins. A friend's luck does not make it safe.                                                                 |
| <b>9. A code you did not ask for</b>   | Someone may know your password. Do not share the code. In the morning, change the password in the real app, turn on two-step sign-in and tell an adult.<br>Codes are sent when someone tries to log in. An unexpected code is an early warning.      |
| <b>10. Gift card for a prize</b>       | Scam. Real prizes do not require gift card payments. Do not reply, and tell an adult.<br>No real business or prize program asks you to pay with a gift card. Gift card payments are hard to trace or get back.                                       |

## Exit ticket

| QUESTION                                                               | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name two red flags in a 'free currency' message.                       | <b>Any two of: a link to a site that is not the game's real site, a countdown or 'first 50 only', a request to log in or share a password, a sender that is a player account pretending to be staff, a deal where you send something first.</b> |
| Someone asks for the code that was just texted to you. What do you do? | <b>Do not share it, stop replying, report and block, change your password in the real app and tell a trusted adult.</b>                                                                                                                         |
| What does 'check another way' mean?                                    | <b>Do not use the link or number in the message. Open the app or website yourself, or contact the person by a route you already know, such as calling or asking in person.</b>                                                                  |