

MEDIA MATTERS

MODULE 4:

STOP CHECK THINK

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Coimisiún
na Meán

ACTIVITY #1

STOP • THINK • CHECK IN ACTION

You are about to see four different messages, posts and headlines. Your task is to use the STOP • THINK • CHECK method to decide what to do with each one.

For each scenario, work through the three steps and answer the questions. Then make your final decision.

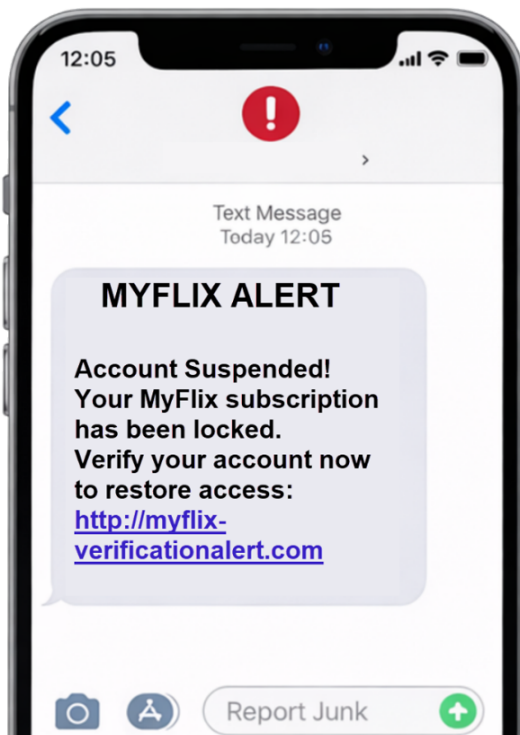
SCENARIO 1

MYFLIX ALERT

Account Suspended! Your MyFlix subscription has been locked. Verify your account now to restore access: <http://myflix-verificationalert.com>

Text Message Today 12:05

Report Junk



STOP

What emotion does this message try to trigger? (For example: panic, urgency, worry)

THINK

Does MyFlix usually contact customers by text message? Look closely at the website address. What seems wrong or suspicious about it?

CHECK

How could you verify whether your MyFlix account [actually](#) has a problem?

YOUR DECISION:

What should you do? You can choose more than one option.

- Click the link
- Ignore and delete
- Report as a scam
- Ask a trusted adult

ACTIVITY #1

STOP • THINK • CHECK IN ACTION

For each scenario, work through the three steps and answer the questions. Then make your final decision.

SCENARIO 2

You see this post when you are scrolling on your tablet.

STOP

What words or phrases are designed to grab your attention and make you want to share quickly?

THINK

Does the account name '@BreakingNews4U4Ever' sound like a professional news organisation?

Does the claim sound believable? Why or why not?

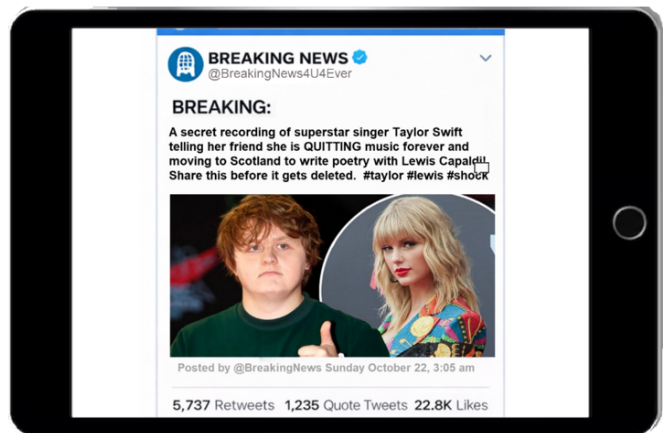
CHECK

How could you find out if this story is true?

YOUR DECISION:

What should you do? You can choose more than one option.

- Share immediately Ignore Check other news sources first Report the post



REMEMBER

Just because everyone believes something does not make it true. False information can spread for lots of different reasons, including repetition, not evidence. This is why STOP • THINK • CHECK matters.

Always ask yourself: is this actually a fact, or is it just something people keep repeating?

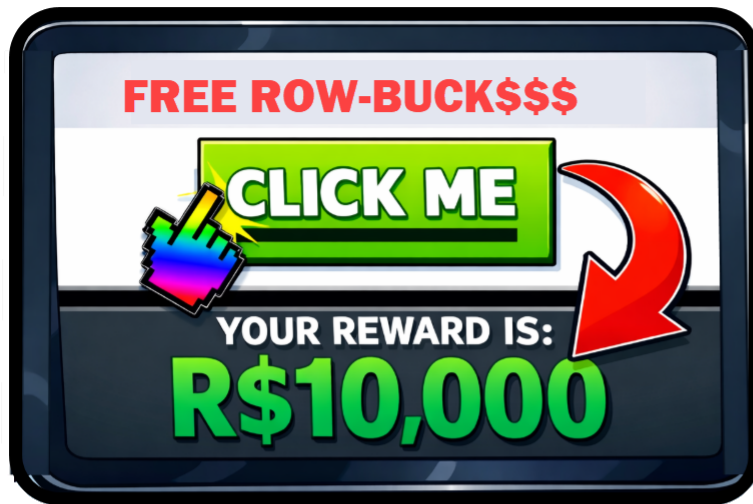
ACTIVITY #1

STOP • THINK • CHECK IN ACTION

For each scenario, work through the three steps and answer the questions. Then make your final decision.

SCENARIO 3

This pop-up appears when you are playing your favourite computer game.



STOP

What feeling is this message trying to create? How is it using time pressure?

THINK

Did you enter any competition or giveaway? Do you know who sent this?

What makes this offer seem 'too good to be true'?

CHECK

What would you need to check before clicking this link?

YOUR DECISION:

What should you do? Tick what you think are the best options. You can choose more than one option.

- Click immediately before time runs out Delete the message Forward to friends
Report as spam Tell your parents Do nothing

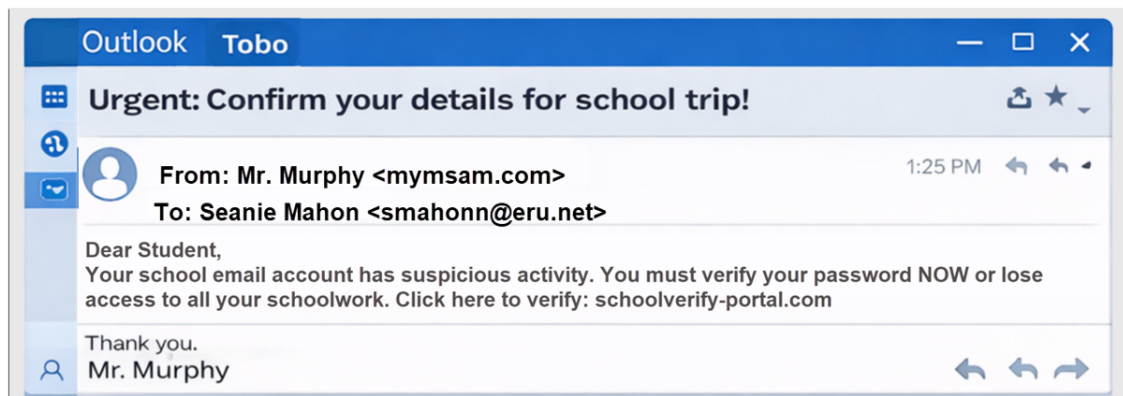
ACTIVITY #1

STOP • THINK • CHECK IN ACTION

For each scenario, work through the three steps and answer the questions. Then make your final decision.

SCENARIO 4

You receive this email:



STOP

What urgent language is being used to make you act quickly?

THINK

Look at the sender's email address. Does 'mymsam.com' seem like your school's official email address?

Would your school ask you to verify your password through an external website?

CHECK

How could you check if this email is really from your school?

YOUR DECISION:

What should you do?

- Click the link and enter password Delete and ignore Ask a teacher or parent Report as phishing ('phishing' is the sending of messages or emails designed to trick you into clicking links or sharing information)

ACTIVITY #2

CREATE THE STOP • THINK • CHECK LOGO

All major media websites have been asked to place a STOP • THINK • CHECK logo ...

- on their home pages
- beside posts and videos
- wherever people are about to click or share

Your job is to design that logo.

Millions of people of all ages will see it every day.

It needs to be clear, simple, and easy to understand in just a few seconds.

YOUR TASK

Design a logo that reminds people to **STOP • THINK • CHECK** before they click, believe, or share something online.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Your logo must:

- include the words **STOP • THINK • CHECK**
- clearly show the order of the steps
- be simple enough to work at a small size
- make sense without explanation
- work in colour and black and white

THINK FIRST

Before you draw, answer these questions.

1. Where might someone see this logo online?
(For example: beside a post, under a video, on a message screen)
2. What should the logo make someone do or feel?
(For example: pause, question, slow down, check)

SYMBOL IDEAS

You may choose to use symbols such as:

- a hand or pause sign for STOP
- a brain, question mark, or lightbulb for THINK
- a tick, magnifying glass, or checklist for CHECK

You do not have to use any of these.

REMEMBER

A good safety logo:

- does not scare people
- does not overload them with information
- helps them pause and think

If your logo makes someone stop for even two seconds, it has made a difference.

ACTIVITY #2

CREATE THE STOP • THINK • CHECK LOGO

DESIGN SPACE

(Use the space below to sketch your logo.)



DESIGN EXPLANATION

Answer in full sentences.

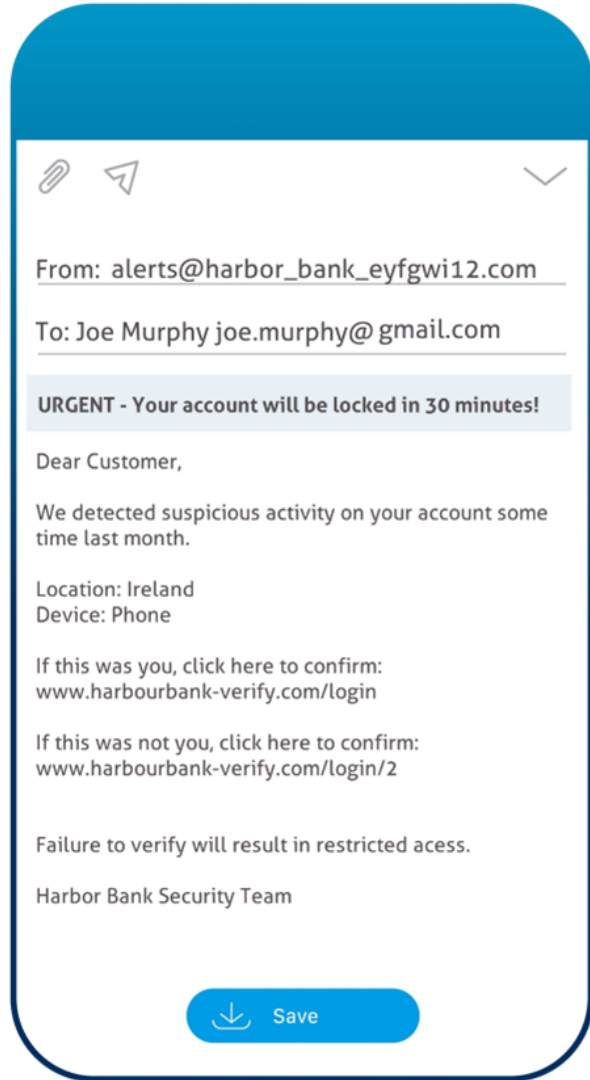
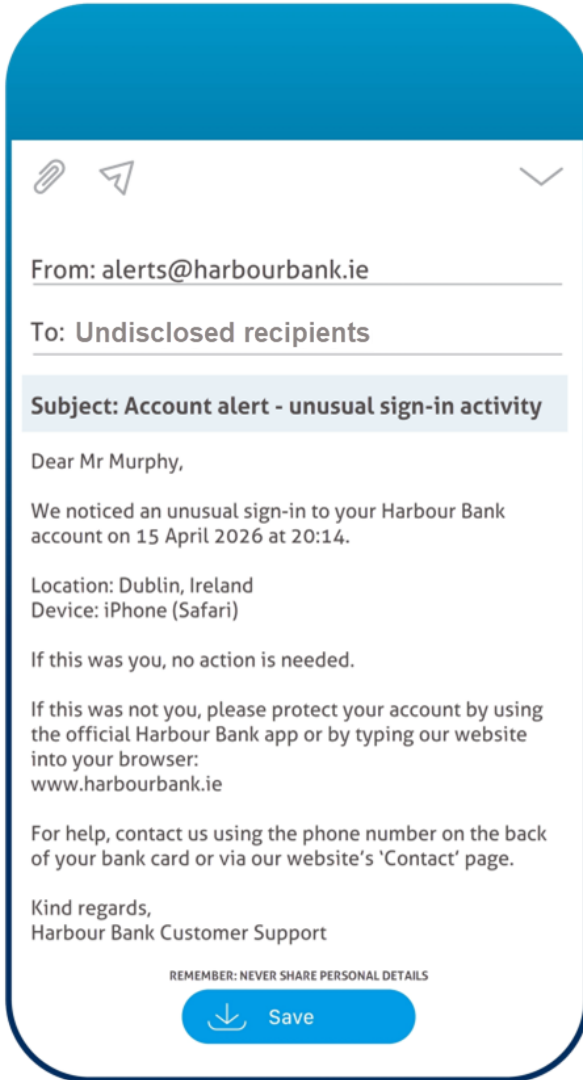
1. Why did you choose these colours, shapes, or symbols?

2. How does your logo help people make safer choices online?

ACTIVITY #3

SPOT THE SCAM

Look carefully at the two emails shown above. They look similar, but one is real and one is fake.
Your job is to spot the warning signs.



There are 10 differences between the two emails. Circle or mark the differences in the image.

Then write them below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

ACTIVITY #3

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

PART 2 – STOP • THINK • CHECK

Answer in full sentences.

1. Which email would make someone feel more worried or rushed? Why?

2. Why is feeling rushed a problem when reading messages like these?

3. What should you do instead of clicking a link in a message like this?

PART 3 – FINAL DECISION

Tick one:

- The email on the left is fake
- The email on the right is fake

Explain your answer using at least two clues from the image.

REMEMBER
Scam messages often:

- sound urgent
- use strange email addresses
- ask you to click links
- leave out important details

When something feels wrong:
STOP • THINK • CHECK

ACTIVITY #4

WORD SEARCH TIME

This word search is packed with words linked to the world of media. Can you spot them all? There's also a hidden word that doesn't appear in the list.

Clue: If in doubt, it's best you do this before doing anything else.

STOP
THINK
CHECK
SCAM
VERIFY
SOURCE
LINK
REPORT
TRUST
EVIDENCE
URGENCY
EMOTION
SAFE
PASSWORD
ACCOUNT
FAKE
REAL
CHECKING
WARNING
CONTROL

T	M	E	O	Q	N	B	I	Q	D	M	D	Y	R	W	M	V
I	R	V	A	F	J	I	E	S	V	J	C	P	J	Z	M	F
I	Z	I	R	E	P	O	R	T	T	H	M	N	C	V	C	H
K	T	D	Y	N	T	N	A	Z	E	X	A	V	O	E	T	H
P	B	E	V	U	W	L	Y	C	R	N	C	O	E	R	R	Y
Y	D	N	R	E	M	E	K	A	F	Z	S	H	R	I	G	W
J	R	C	D	F	R	I	Y	L	P	Q	M	W	K	F	D	B
K	P	E	X	J	N	Q	V	S	Q	A	F	Z	B	Y	J	H
I	S	O	I	G	T	V	J	M	A	M	L	W	I	X	Y	V
L	T	M	Q	B	N	P	S	W	U	K	D	W	V	T	K	E
I	V	S	Q	K	X	D	O	C	I	M	O	M	Z	W	S	Y
X	E	K	U	Y	K	K	N	I	L	S	A	H	F	U	M	K
R	J	A	S	R	J	P	Y	E	Q	F	L	V	A	T	T	J
B	K	K	Y	C	T	L	M	M	L	T	O	P	Z	K	H	Z
L	E	U	A	V	K	D	Q	O	K	C	R	V	Q	Q	I	T
U	F	M	M	Y	Z	M	Z	T	N	H	T	K	Y	P	N	Y
K	R	S	A	F	E	E	L	I	H	T	N	B	M	W	K	B
N	K	G	P	R	X	G	B	O	I	A	O	V	E	Q	Y	T
K	O	Z	E	O	A	O	N	N	J	U	C	F	D	K	L	K
T	K	A	M	N	T	J	D	I	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	E
A	L	M	K	T	C	S	J	B	N	T	R	F	J	E	K	S
L	S	D	Q	M	C	Y	S	O	U	R	C	E	W	H	R	F
Q	Q	V	F	P	M	O	S	F	T	G	A	K	O	C	Y	U
Z	C	T	R	L	L	L	F	J	D	R	O	W	S	S	A	P

Extra Challenge

If you're done, test your skills by putting all the words into alphabetical order.

Curriculum Links

Wellbeing

¥

SPHE
Health Education
Media and Digital Wellbeing
Stage 4 – 5th and 6th Class

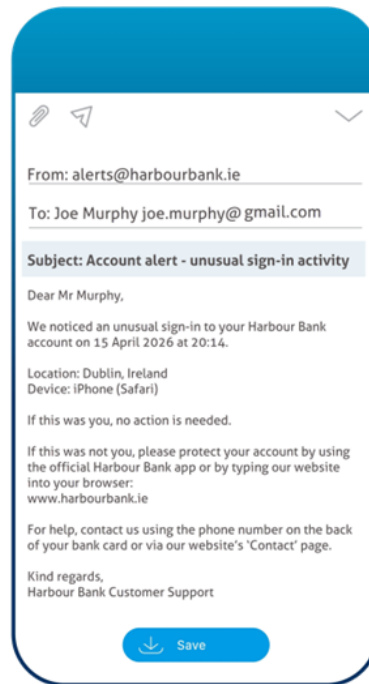
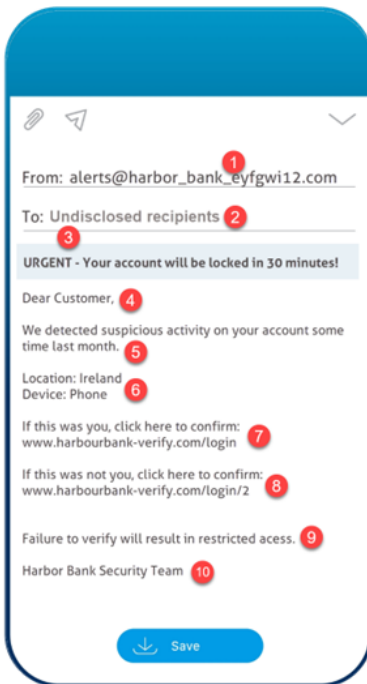
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DL – Being a digital learner
AL – Being an active learner
AC – Being an active citizen
W – Being well

MODULE 4 – STOP • THINK • CHECK

Strand	Wellbeing
Area	Media and Digital Wellbeing
Stage	Stage 4 – 5th and 6th Class
Learning Outcomes	Identify strategies to evaluate the credibility of information and consider how media ownership and perspective influence content. W, DL, AC Critique depictions of topics in the media, recognising examples of stereotypes and bias. W, DL, CL
Key Competencies	DL – Being a digital learner CL – Being a communicator and using language AL – Being an active learner AC – Being an active citizen W – Being well
Learning Intentions	Understand how to evaluate information critically using a structured method; recognise the warning signs of false information and scams; develop confidence in checking claims before believing or sharing them.
Success Criteria	I can explain the three steps of Stop • Think • Check and when to use them. I can identify warning signs (red flags) of false information or scams. I can describe how to verify a claim using reliable sources.
Methodologies	Discussion; guided questioning; comparison of texts; group work; reflection.
Assessment	Written responses; oral explanations; observation; justification using evidence.
Differentiation	Support: structured questions, paired work, sentence starters. Challenge: evaluate conflicting sources; explain how scams exploit emotions; create own red-flag checklist.
Safety Notes	Reassure pupils that everyone can be fooled; focus on empowerment, not fear; remind pupils to talk to a trusted adult if unsure.
Teacher Reflection	Pupils practised evaluating information using Stop • Think • Check and identified warning signs of false information and scams.

Answers



1. From address – The scam uses a misleading, messy domain to look official. The real email uses a clean, correct bank domain.
2. To field – ‘Undisclosed recipients’ suggests a bulk send. The real email is clearly addressed to one person.
3. Subject line – The scam creates panic and urgency. The real one is calm and factual.
4. Greeting – ‘Dear Customer’ is vague. Using the person’s name feels more legitimate.
5. Timing – ‘Some time last month’ is unclear. The real email gives a precise date and time.
6. Details – The scam gives vague device info. The real email gives specific, believable details.
7. Links – The scam includes clickable links. The real email tells you to go to the official site yourself.
8. Multiple links – Two different links is a red flag. Legitimate emails avoid this.
9. Threats – The scam threatens loss of access. The real email does not.
10. Sign-off – ‘Security Team’ is generic. The real email uses a proper support sign-off.