

Safe Online Shopping



Lesson: Online Shopping and Credit Cards

Online shopping is convenient but requires careful monitoring as well. One-click buying makes it easy to overspend on impulse purchases, and hasty shopping can lead to less than vigilant security habits. It's important to carefully review online shopping best practices before adding items to your cart.

Objective

Identify ways to protect your personal information while shopping online.

Activity

Read the following scenario to the students. Break students into small groups and assign each group one of the three risks listed below. Give students 10 minutes to brainstorm ways to help Veronica, and then report their ideas to the class. Suggested ideas have been provided in case students are stuck.

Scenario:

Veronica loves the benefits of online shopping. It's quick, convenient, and allows her to buy a wide variety of things without driving all over town. However, she is concerned about some of the risks. She has identified three risks she is particularly worried about. In teams, brainstorm ways Veronica can mitigate these risks to help make her online shopping a safer and more satisfying experience.

Risk #1 Her personal data could be stolen

Solutions may include using one card for all online purchases and reviewing the statement frequently for signs of fraud, only using secure websites and being wary of deals that are too good to be true.

Risk #2 She could spend too much

Solutions may include setting a budget before shopping, only charging on your credit card an amount you can pay in full at the end of the month and waiting 24 hours before making an online purchase.

Risk #3 She could be unhappy with the purchase

Solutions may include checking the return policy before buying, buying from brands you've seen in person, and reading reviews before purchasing.

Reflection:

1. Have you ever been unhappy with an online purchase? Why? What would you do differently next time?
2. Do you think using a credit card online is more or less safe than using a credit card in person? Why?

