# **Article: Protecting your identity**

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/protecting-your-identity>

This short resource contains the following:

1. Link to the original stimulus
2. Cloze passage of an eSafety article
3. Comprehension questions
4. Language forms and features
5. Create a poster or video

**English outcomes**

This lesson addresses the following outcomes:

**EN4-3B** - uses and describes language forms, features and structures of texts appropriate to a range of purposes, audiences and contexts

## Cloze

**Protecting your identity**

Online services are learning more and more about us from our personal information and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they collect from us online.

Our personal information is any information that can be used to identify us online. It is used with our permission by many social media services and businesses as we connect with friends or buy things online. However, this is not always the case and some personal information can be misused by criminals or used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by marketers.

Online businesses and marketers collect a wide range of data about what we’re buying online, the pages we like or follow on social media sites, the media channels we use, the celebrities, movies and music we like, our education level and our friends on social media — the list doesn’t stop there!

The information that is collected about us can be used to ensure we are given \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we like, but it can also be used for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and identity \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**What is my personal information?**

Your personal information may include your:

* full name
* address
* phone numbers
* school
* date of birth
* email address
* usernames and passwords
* bank details

**How to protect your personal information**

If you want to manage how online services can find out about you, here are some ways you can protect your personal information.

**Set strong passwords**

Select passwords carefully and don’t share them we anyone. Security experts now recommend that you use a ‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ rather than a password. It’s also a good idea to use different passwords for all your online accounts. Read more about [how to set strong passwords](https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/how-to/protect-personal-information).

**Delete cookies**

Cookies are small text files storing information about your browsing activity, allowing websites to recognise you and save your settings. Although there are other ways you can be tracked online, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your cookies will limit some access. To delete cookies, go to the settings within your browser and look for a section that allows you to ‘manage cookies’.

**Log out of social media sites and email while you browse the web**

Another simple strategy is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of your social media sites and email while you are doing other things online. That means actually logging out, not just closing the tab. Cookies can’t persist when you have logged out, but they are able to be used when you’re still logged in.

**Use private browsing or ‘incognito’ mode**

Most browsers give you an option to browse the web \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or use ‘incognito’ mode. This means that the history of any sites you visit and any cookies from sites you go to won’t be stored.

**Bonus tip** — ever noticed how prices seem to go up on flights and hotels the second time you visit a site? This is because the site uses cookies to set the pricing. If you use private browsing or ‘incognito’ mode companies won’t be able to use their algorithms to artificially inflate prices.

**Avoid using social media accounts to sign in**

If you can avoid using your social media accounts to sign into other apps or accounts this will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the information the new app or account has access to. When you use your social media account to sign into other apps or online accounts you are often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_that this new account is allowed to have access to all the information you share in your primary account.

**Change your smartphone settings**

Smartphones work differently to computers, which makes it a little easier to control access to your online data. On an iPhone you can go to Settings > Privacy and scroll down to Advertising. Turn ‘Limit ad tracking’ to On. For an Android phone, go to the Google settings app and tap the ads link and select ‘Opt out of interest-based ads’. Although this may not limit the amount of ads you see, it will make them less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ — which may or may not suit you.

**Give the least amount of personal information as possible**

When signing up for things or registering an account, if the information is mandatory, usually the category will have an asterisk. The categories without an asterisk can be left blank. Don’t pass on your personal information unnecessarily.

**Do a digital check-up**

The big social media sites that we trust with our information offer privacy controls. So make sure you use them. Every once in a while, check your settings and see if you’re OK with how your data is being used or how much information you’re sharing with potential \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If you’re not happy, change it up! For more info about privacy settings see the [eSafety Guide](https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide).

**Word bank**

targeted advertisers pass phrase agreeing

log deleting privately reduce

fraud theft inappropriately data

recommendations

## Comprehension questions

1. What 8 recommendations does the article make?
2. What are ‘cookies’?
3. Why should you log out of social media accounts when browsing the web?
4. How is mandatory information shown when registering for an account?
5. How much personal information should you provide?

## Language forms and features

**Passive voice**

1. Passive voice is often used to create an objective tone and is often identified by the word ‘by’ after the verb (not always immediately). Rewrite the following sentences in the active voice. In fiction, the active voice is preferred, but it can be used appropriately in non-fiction.
	1. It is used with our permission by many social media services and businesses as we connect with friends or buy things online.
	2. This is not always the case and some personal information can be misused by criminals or used inappropriately by marketers.

**Possible answers:**

* 1. Social media services and business use our personal information as we connect with friends or buy things online.
	2. Criminals and marketers can misuse or use inappropriately our personal information.
1. Find two examples of the active voice and change them to passive. Discuss with a partner the impact of these changes.

For example:

*Security experts now recommend that you use a ‘pass phrase’ rather than a password.*

*A pass phrase is now recommended by security experts rather than a password.*

*A passphrase is now recommended rather than a password.*

1. Compare the following paragraphs and choose the one that you believe communicates the best.

**Example 1**

When signing up for things or registering an account, if the information is mandatory, usually the category will have an asterisk. The categories without an asterisk can be left blank and you should not pass on your personal information unnecessarily.

**Example 2**

When signing up for things or registering an account, if the information is mandatory, usually the category will have an asterisk. The categories without an asterisk can be left blank. Don’t pass on your personal information unnecessarily

**Teacher note:** Example 2 is what the original contains. The two simple sentences at the end of the paragraph form strong recommendations, particularly the second sentence using the imperative ‘don’t’. This is a simple example of how varying sentence structure and length is effective tool.

**Other structures**

**Participles**

Cookies are small text files storing information about your browsing activity, allowing websites to recognise you and save your settings.

**Infinitive verbs (starts)**

To delete cookies, go to the settings within your browser and look for a section that allows you to ‘manage cookies’.

## Create

Create a poster or a video for your school about how to protect your identity online based on this content. You may wish to use Canva for the poster.

A simple structure will work best to communicate your video. Use this video on [Tips for staying safe online](https://vimeo.com/410008400) as a guide. A simple scaffold is provided below.

**Video resources**

Use [The Student Filmmaker](https://t4l.schools.nsw.gov.au/resources/teaching-and-learning-resources/the-student-filmmaker.html) resources to help learn the fundamentals of creating video

View the ABC [Storyboarding interview](https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1771517/scripting-and-storyboarding-a-video-interview) for further details about the importance of this step

#### Video scaffold

**Introduction**

**Tip 1** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 2** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 3** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 4** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 5** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 6** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**Tip 7** [Insert group member name, text and location of shot]

**B-roll or wallpaper footage required: screen recordings: log out, delete cookies, change settings**