

## DISCOVER... INTERNET WONDERS

### 7. LET'S GO E-SHOPPING



**OUTCOME:**  
Learn how to shop online safely and ethically

**MATERIALS:**  
Mock online shop handouts (See Tool below)

#### WHAT HAPPENS:

Think about online shopping. Food, clothes, digital devices or medicine can be bought online. What are some things you or your family usually buy? Although using your computer or mobile phone for purchases is easy and fast, there are some things to consider to keep safe.

Think of your favorite online shops. They can be international or local. Pick one and visit it. You will now begin to review it for security and safety: browse the site, compare items, and add an item to their electric cart. Continue the steps to purchase the product, but stop before entering any personal or payment information.

While on the e-shop, try and evaluate it by answering these basic questions:

- Does the web address in the browser start with https rather than http?
- Does the site display any contact information?
- Does the site have a returns policy?
- Are you staying on the same website or are you being redirected?
- What type of information is it asking from customers?
- Does it look genuine based on what you read and see?

Round up the answers to create a list of safety rules when shopping online. You can find valuable information further below.

#### Activity tip!

You can also do the activity offline, by creating a couple of mock online shops by using all the 'wrong' things. You can find an example in the Tools section. Once you have them, you hand out the mock online shops. In groups, ask participants to look at the handouts and review for security and safety and answering the questions mentioned in the activity.



#### SEARCH RESULTS!

When shopping online, smart digital citizens always ask:

- Where am I shopping? Make sure you are not being redirected to another site that might get your personal information.
- Is the e-shop secure? Does the URL of the website show 'https'? That 's' at the end or a yellow lock icon in the lower right-hand corner means the site includes encryption and is really secure.
- How does it look? If the url has awful grammar or graphics, it is a sign it is not safe.
- What am I sharing? Account numbers, social security numbers or passwords are private information, not to be shared.
- Am I in public? If you are e-shopping in school or on a public computer, there is a risk of someone getting your information afterwards.
- What is the final price? Before confirming the purchase, check for additional charges for shipping, enrollment fees, special offers or rewards programs.
- What is that box? Sometimes e-shops ask you to tick or untick a box to give them permission to contact you by email – make sure to consent only to things you want.
- Am I respectful? If you are using someone else's device, you should ask them before making any purchase.

### 7. LET'S GO E-SHOPPING (CONTINUED)



- Who can help me? If the website you shopped from was hiding information or was providing incorrect information and tricked you, then you've been victim of fraud. Talk to an adult and then report it to your local consumer protection agency.
- Where can I get advice? Reviews can help but only if there are actually lots of them. It is best to look for reliable product feedback on social media. Remember to add your voice!

[Adapted from <https://georgia4h.org/wp-content/uploads/Grab-Go-Online-Shopping-Being-Safe-While-Shopping-Online-Lesson.pdf>]

### TOOL ★

#### SAMPLE OF A MOCK ONLINE SHOP

##### 1. Technology website

URL of the website: [www.techmeup.com](http://www.techmeup.com)

Message 'Redirecting to: [www.cheapmobiles.com](http://www.cheapmobiles.com)

Redirecting



### TAKE IT FURTHER ETHICAL SHOPPING



#### WHAT HAPPENS:

Every time we shop we're giving a positive review with our wallet. When we chose brands that have a positive impact we are taking a stand for a better world. This type of shopping is called ethical shopping and can also be done when shopping online.

- How can we use e-shopping to do good?
- What type of products can we choose to buy online to bring positive impact?

Visit your favorite online shops and find out about their ethical credentials.



#### SEARCH RESULTS!

##### Digital citizens shop ethically online

By carefully choosing where we spend our money and looking behind the brands, we can choose products that have a positive impact on people, the planet and animals. Here are a few positive choices you can make when shopping online:

1. For the environment: We can help reduce the use of pesticides that can damage ecosystems by buying organic products.
2. For local and global society: Many of the products we buy have been produced by companies that do not pay their workers a living wage. We can choose products that carry the Fairtrade or other accreditation marks. These marks signpost us towards companies that are paying fair wages to their workers and are supporting communities.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**NEARLY 60%**  
of the global population uses  
the internet.

[Internet World Stats](#)

3. For animal welfare: Consuming ethically can help improve conditions for animals in a number of ways. For example, many cosmetics companies still test on animals, but you can buy from brands that refuse to test on animals. You can also consider choosing products where companies have protected welfare in your animal products..
4. Balance your shopping: Do you really need that new pair of shoes or clothes? Is it really necessary to upgrade your smartphone again? Reducing consumption can help save money and the planet.
5. Re-use: Fixing, up-cycling, reusing and buying second hand is a great way to reduce waste.
6. Shop from local, independent retailers: it is a great way to boost the local economy and help small businesses thrive.

[Adapted from <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/how-to-shop-ethically>]

#### TIP!

Is someone acting out of order on an instant messenger, chat room or online game? If you are on your phone screenshot it using the side buttons. On a computer, use the Print Screen button to take a screenshot of the messages, then open a paint programme, paste the screenshot and save it as evidence.