

## Safe Online Talk

### Internet Safety Tips

If you develop a friendship with someone online, be sure to ask yourself the following questions:

- *Has this person asked me to keep any information secret?*
- *Has this person flirted with me, or asked me about anything sexual?*
- *Has this person asked me about anything private?*
- *Have I felt pressured by this person to do anything?*
- *Do I feel untrue to myself— like I'm not sticking to my values — when I talk to this person?*

If the answer is “Yes,” then this friendship is risky and it’s time to stop talking to this person. You deserve better!

#### Bonus Tips

If someone starts chatting with you about inappropriate topics or asks you to send a picture of yourself, end the conversation immediately. And never plan a face-to-face meeting with someone you met online without taking a parent or guardian along.

### Directions

*When people drive, they should know the rules of the road. Traffic lights tell them when it’s safe to move forward, and when they need to stop.*

1. Take three sheets of paper and draw a circle on each one. Color your circle “lights” green, yellow, and red.
2. With your group, read through each of the following stories. Use the Internet Traffic Light descriptions on the next page to help you decide whether it is a green, yellow, or red light situation. When you have made your choice, take one of your lights and place it face down in front of you.
3. Wait until all group members have made their choices, and then flip your papers over. Discuss the choices you made, and decide as a group which one is best.
4. After each story, write down the choice your group made and why.



<b>Stop! Too dangerous to proceed.</b>	The person you are talking to is clearly acting inappropriately, and the conversation needs to end.
<b>Slow down, be cautious – and be prepared to stop.</b>	Something about this conversation makes you feel uncomfortable. You’re alert for any signs of inappropriate or suspicious behavior.
<b>Coast is clear (but look both ways!)</b>	You feel safe and enjoy interacting with this person online. But you also remember that all conversations can take unexpected turns, so you’re prepared to put the brakes on if you need to. You have not provided any private information.

## Abby’s Story

Abby is 14. Yesterday was her friend Ivan’s bar mitzvah, and Abby chatted with some of his relatives at the party. Today, Abby logs on to the social networking site MyFace and sees a friend request from Ivan’s uncle. She doesn’t know him very well, but they did chat a little bit about school at the dessert buffet.

**What light do you think Abby should choose in this situation? Explain your choice.**

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## Vince’s Story

Vince is 12 and loves playing EscapeGo – a fantasy combat MMORPG (massive multiplayer online role-playing game). When he first started playing, another avatar was nice to him and helped him learn the ways of the game. Since then they’ve been good friends online, completing quests together and protecting each other during combat. Once, one of their teammates asked them how old they were during a quest. “Enough small talk, dude. Nobody cares, just play the game,” Vince’s friend said in response.

**What light do you think Vince should choose in this situation? Explain your choice.**

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## Keyanna's Story

Keyanna is 13 and she often plays Whatville, a virtual world for middle school kids like herself. One day, another avatar throws a heart her way. Keyanna knows that throwing hearts is a common way to flirt on Whatville. She also knows he's not a newbie, because it takes someone with a lot experience to design the kind of appearance that his avatar has.

**What light do you think Keyanna should choose in this situation? Explain your choice.**

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## Catherine's Story, Part 1

Catherine, who is 15, logs on to a chat room for teenagers. Her screen name is CathyKisses15. A guy called MikeyMike99 said hi to her a few days ago, and they've talked every day since. He's really easy to chat with, and she likes venting to him about things that annoy her at school and at home. She hasn't told him anything too personal yet. "U seem so mature. Ur 15 right? I'm 20," MikeyMike99 says.

**What light do you think Catherine should choose in this situation? Explain your choice.**

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## Catherine's Story, Part 2

Catherine is back online with MikeyMike99, and they've been talking for about a week now. He's starting to flirt with her, and she's flattered because he seems pretty mature. After all, Catherine's not really into any of the guys at her school, so she likes flirting with Mike online. She's pretty good at it too. And yeah, he said something that might have been kind of sexual once or twice. Today he writes, "Can I show u a pic?" Before she types a response, he says again: "Keep this private ok? I like u, Cat. I hope u like me 2."

**Now what light do you think Catherine should choose? Explain your choice.**

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# Safe Online Talk

## Directions

When connecting with people online, the Internet opens up many opportunities. However, online communication also has its pitfalls. Fill out the chart below to show the positive and negative online experiences that Randy, Aseal, and Renee describe in the video.

Name	Opportunities (potential positives)	Pitfalls (potential negatives)
<b>Randy</b> <i>Social network sites (Facebook)</i>		
<b>Aseal</b> <i>Gaming</i>		
<b>Renee</b> <i>Texting and video chatting (Skype)</i>		