ACTIVITY

How Phishing Tricks People

Spot the Trick

This email went to every student at Quillmont High. Find the trick in each of its four marked phrases. Then name two more tricks that don't need an email. Every message, person and school on this page is made up.

How do you earn points? Each question is worth 1 point, and the last question is worth 1 point, 7 points in all. An answer earns its point when it names the trick and the words or the reason that show it.

The email

From: Quillmont Tech Office

Subject: Action needed on your school account

[1] Dear Student,

[2] This is the Quillmont Tech Office. We found a problem with your account, and it will be shut off at 3:00 PM today.

[3] The first 50 students who confirm their account will also get free earbuds.

[4] Please don't tell anyone about this message. It's only for students with the problem.

[Confirm my account]

1. Read the email and the two short cases.

2. Answer each question. Then answer the last question and check with a partner.

Part 1: The email

1. What is phrase 1 called, and why is it a warning sign? Write 1 sentence.

2. Name two tactics in phrase 2, and quote the words for one of them. Write 1-2 sentences.

3. Which tactics does phrase 3 use? Quote the words that do it. Write 1 sentence.

4. Why would a scammer tell you not to tell anyone? Write 1 sentence.

Part 2: Two more tricks

The new student

A student you've never seen says he's new. He asks to borrow your school login so he can print his schedule before class.

Write the name of the trick and what the person wants from you.

The free game

A website says you can download a popular game for free. It tells you to turn off your antivirus before you install it.

Write the name of the trick and what the person wants from you.

Last question. The email has no spelling mistakes, and it looks like the school's other emails. Does that make it real? Explain, and say what you'd do instead of tapping the button. Write 2 sentences.

ONLINE GAME

Tag the Tactic is an online game that practices today's skill with new examples. It takes about 9 to 12 minutes. Play it on a computer or tablet when your teacher says: madlyproductivepathways.com/play/tag-the-tactic