



Don't let scary stories about the internet put you off enjoying all the great things that you can do online. These top tips will help you stay safe and feel confident while using the internet.

Top tips

Secure passwords: A password is a combination of letters, numbers and symbols which only you know. This could be a word or phrase which is memorable to you. It's like a key to your online accounts and should be kept secret.

Top tip: Make your passwords more secure by using a mixture of numbers, letters and symbols. Longer passwords tend to be more secure too.

Top tip: Passwords are sometimes hard to remember, and it's tempting to use the same password for everything. Try to vary your passwords as much as possible to make it more difficult for somebody to guess them.

Top tip: Don't give it away. If someone is asking you for your password, they are probably up to no good. Just like a PIN number for a bank card, it should be kept a secret.

Social media: Social media is great for sharing things with friends and family and finding out what's going on in the world. But it's important to stay safe and make sure you aren't sharing too much personal information with people you don't know.

Top tip: Keep it private. Privacy settings are there so that you can control who can see the information you share online. You can limit it to whoever you feel comfortable with being able to see what you post.



Top tip: Try not to reveal too much personal information on social media. This includes things like your address, phone number or email address.

Viruses: A virus can attack your computer, tablet or smartphone. It's similar to getting the flu, as it spreads from device to device. There are lots of ways to protect yourself.

Top tip: Antivirus software can be bought online or in a computer shop. It protects your device from common viruses. Some software is free.

Top tip: Use a pop-up blocker on your laptop. Pop-ups can sometimes (but not always) contain a virus. You can enable your pop-up blocker in your internet browser settings.

Scams

Top tip: Be vigilant. Online scams usually aim to get money from you, one way or another. To be safe, avoid giving out too much personal information when interacting with anybody online.

Top tip: When you are filling out an online form, only enter the required information which will have an asterisk next to it. This is the essential information you need to give, and will help you to avoid any additional information getting into the wrong hands.

Top tip: Your bank or other online companies will never ask you for your password. Some scammers pose as banks or companies to try and gain access to your account. If in doubt, check directly with your bank or via the website's 'contact us' pages.

Children: The internet is great for children and teenagers, but it's important to keep them safe while they are browsing.

Top tip: Parental controls can help you limit what children can find online. It can give you peace of mind knowing that your children won't come across explicit, violent or illegal content.

