

Name _____ Date _____

Savvy Talk

Kaylee, 12 years old, is in a chat room talking about her favorite hip-hop artists. Someone with the screen name “HipHopMike” really seems to know his music. As it often happens, the chat wanders from music to other topics. Kaylee and HipHopMike begin to flirt.

HipHopMike says, “What do you look like?”

“I’m cute,” replies Kaylee.

“Well, what color is your hair?” HipHopMike responds.

Kaylee answers, “Light brown. I wear it in a pony tail with longish bangs.”

A few minutes later, HipHopMike asks, “Do you cyber?”

Kaylee begins to feel really uncomfortable. She knows that to “cyber” means going into a private, unmonitored chat room. Should she be nervous? Why or why not?

Then HipHopMike asks, “So, what are your measurements?”

Kaylee replies that she doesn’t know because she is always confusing metric measurements with feet and inches in math class.

HipHopMike says, “Really? Whose math class are you in?”

How should Kaylee answer?

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Soon HipHopMike says, "I've got to go. My old college roommate just arrived."

Kaylee gets a sick feeling in her stomach. She feels guilty and scared.
What led Kaylee to assume HipHopMike was a boy her age?

A few days later, Kaylee is still shaken up. She worries that she gave too much information to HipHopMike. What safety advice would you give her?

Daryl collects comic books and goes online to a chat room for comic book fans. He offers to trade comic books with someone there. The other person agrees, and says, "I'll mail you the comic book. What's your address?" Daryl is really desperate to make the trade. Yet, he hesitates.

Why does Daryl hesitate? What should he do?

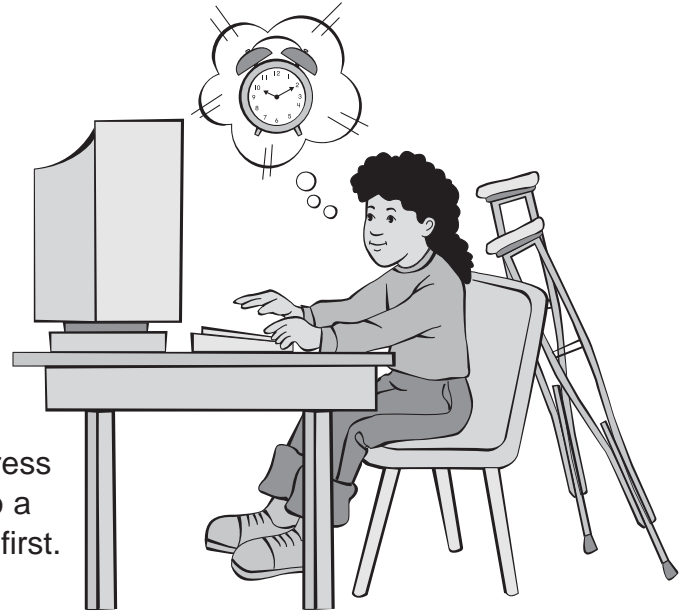
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Listen to Your Safety Alarm

Online chatting and messaging can be lots of fun. It's a great way to keep in touch with your friends and family. However, when you chat with strangers, you have to stay alert. People may NOT be who YOU think they are. So, make sure you hear your **safety alarm** when it rings in your head.

Daryl must have heard his safety alarm when asked for his address. Daryl wouldn't give his address to a stranger on the street. Nor should he give it to a stranger in cyberspace without asking his parents first.

Kaylee's safety alarm went off several times while chatting with HipHopMike. Kaylee should know that going into a private chat room is unsafe. She should also remember that people in cyberspace may not be who she thinks they are. Last, Kaylee should also know that the names of her teachers and school can be used to find her. That's why they should be kept private. To stay safe, Kaylee might have answered, "I'm in Ms. B's class."



Online Talk—Dos and Don'ts

- ✓ Do stick to monitored chat rooms for kids.
- ✓ Don't use screen names that tell your name, age, or whether you're a boy or girl.
- ✓ Don't go into private, unmonitored chat rooms.
- ✓ Since instant messaging is like private chat, do use it only with family and friends.
- ✓ Don't relax so much that you accidentally give out private identity information.
- ✓ Don't flirt with strangers.
- ✓ Don't answer questions that make you uncomfortable. Remember to listen for that alarm bell!
- ✓ Do respond to the question "Are you alone?" with "no"—even if you are alone.
- ✓ Do tell your parent or guardian if someone bothers you. Let them know if the person might have your private identity information.
- ✓ Never plan to meet face-to-face with someone you met in a chat room without taking your parent with you.