

# THE 7 RED FLAGS OF PHISHING

Phishing is one of the most common threats you can encounter online. Luckily, phishing messages can be easy to spot – if you know what you're looking for.



Here are the 7 biggest red flags you should check for when you receive an email or text.

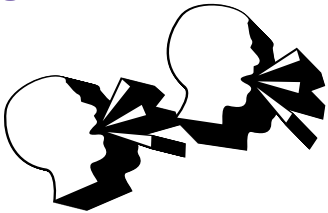


## 1 URGENT OR THREATENING LANGUAGE

Real emergencies don't happen over email.

### LOOK OUT FOR:




-  Pressure to respond quickly
-  Threats of closing your account or taking legal action



## 2 REQUESTS FOR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Anyone asking for personal information over email or text probably shouldn't be trusted with it, anyway.

### LOOK OUT FOR:

-  Links directing you to login pages
-  Requests to update your account information
-  Demands for your financial information, even from your bank

## 3 ANYTHING TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Winning a lottery is unlikely. Winning a lottery you didn't enter is **impossible!**

### LOOK OUT FOR:



-  Winnings from contests you've never entered
-  Prizes you have to pay to receive
-  Inheritance from long-lost relatives



## 4 UNEXPECTED EMAILS

Expect the unexpected, and then send it right to the **trash**.

### LOOK OUT FOR:




-  Receipts for items you didn't purchase
-  Updates on deliveries for things you didn't order



## 5 INFORMATION MISMATCHES

Searching for clues in a phishing email puts your love of true crime podcasts to good use.




### LOOK OUT FOR:

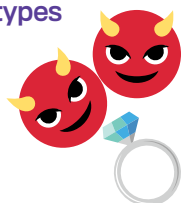
-  Incorrect (but maybe similar) sender email addresses
-  Links that don't go to official websites
-  Spelling or grammar errors, beyond the odd typo, that a legitimate organization wouldn't miss

## 6 SUSPICIOUS ATTACHMENTS

Attachments might seem like gifts for your inbox. But just like real gifts, they're not always good...

### LOOK OUT FOR:



-  Attachments you didn't ask for
-  Weird file names
-  Uncommon file types






## 7 UNPROFESSIONAL DESIGN

For some reason, hiring a graphic designer isn't on a cyber criminal's priority list. ٩(ツ)ノ

### LOOK OUT FOR:

-  Incorrect or blurry logos
-  Image-only emails (no highlightable text)
-  Company emails with little, poor or no formatting

## IF YOU SPOT ANY OF THESE RED FLAGS IN A MESSAGE:

-  don't click any links
-  don't reply or forward
-  don't open attachments

DELETE THE **EMAIL OR TEXT**, OR REACH OUT TO THE SENDER THROUGH A DIFFERENT CHANNEL IF YOU'RE NOT SURE.

Get more tips to secure your accounts and devices at