

OVERVIEW

A victim's age doesn't matter to scammers. If you have a wallet and a Social Security number, you are at risk for being duped and defrauded.

You may have learned about credit-related identity fraud in *Module 2: Borrowing*. But there's more to learn about the many ways identity thieves can profit from using your banking information. In this lesson you will explore ways to protect your financial information.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this lesson you will explore strategies to protect your personal account information. Along the way you will:

- Give examples of how people are victims of fraud schemes.
- Discuss ways to protect personal and financial information.
- Describe what to do after becoming a victim of fraud.

Use what you learn today to devise a plan to protect personal information.

LEARNING TASKS

These tasks match pages 35-39 in Student Guide 5.

__ 1.	Go on a scavenger hunt. How many trustworthy online resources can you find that feature trends and cautions about fraud related to banking and shopping?
__ 2.	There may be a time when someone will try to steal your money by paying with a fake check. Do you remember what makes a check valid? Test your knowledge. Complete the Is the Check Still Valid? task.
__ 3.	Courtney was almost scammed when she tried to sell her car online. Research online resources that can help you be informed so you aren't scammed.
__ 4.	What action will you take if you suspect that someone might be trying to deceive you? Identify fraud prevention strategies as you complete Activity 5.8: Deal With Deception .
__ 5.	Create an action plan for your family to outline ways you and your family can avoid scams, fraud, and theft of your financial information. Complete Challenge 5-D: Scam Action Plan .



FURTHER STUDY

Listen to the FDIC Money Smart podcast "How to Protect Your Identity" under the heading "Basics of Banking."
www.fdicmspodcast.com



FURTHER STUDY

Write a letter to dispute a fraudulent credit card purchase or an unauthorized withdrawal from a bank account.

Activity 5.8: Deal With Deception

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

What action would you take if you suspected that someone might be trying to deceive you? Explain how to handle each situation below to avoid having your personal information or financial information getting into the wrong hands.

These resources are good places to find tips to prevent and deal with deception:

- Federal Trade Commission, www.consumer.ftc.gov/identity-theft
- Your state's Attorney General website, www.naag.org/current-attorneys-general.php
Search words: consumer resources, identity fraud, scams
- HSFPP Student Guide, *Module 2: Borrowing*, pages 33-38
- HSFPP Student Guide, *Module 5: Financial Services*, pages 35-39

1. You walk up to an ATM and a guy walks up behind you who appears to be waiting his turn. But he's uncomfortably close—right over your shoulder—as you get ready to enter your PIN.

2. You (or a parent) are at a cash register in a store and have given the clerk your credit card. She holds on to it, probably to verify your signature. But then she says she needs to grab something from the back and starts to walk away with your card in hand.

3. You've found a pair of shoes at a great price on a website you discovered on Facebook. You start the check-out process and notice that the padlock at the bottom of your computer screen is open and that the webpage address starts with "http" instead of "https."

4. You get a text message that says your bank debit card has been deactivated. The message tells you to reply to resolve the problem.

5. You're disappointed about losing in an online auction. But then you get an E-mail stating the winner backed out and that you can have the item if you still want it. You just need to send your credit card information via E-mail.

Task: Is the Check Valid?

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

A properly written check is a legal contract to transfer funds from the payer to the payee. Read each situation below and determine if the issue listed affects the validity of the check.

If the check is is it illegal, legal, or legal but a bad idea?		
	Illegal	Legal	Legal but bad idea
1. Made payable to "me"?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Not signed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has no mailing or contact information of the person drafting the check?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is post-dated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The numerical dollar amount does not match the dollar amount written in words?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. It has "void" written on it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Not made of paper?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The dollar amount written in words is misspelled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. You make and correct mistake on the check?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Nothing is written in the "memo" section?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. A third-party check?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. The date written on the check is more than 120 days ago?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. The bank the check is drawn from is not named on the check.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. The drawee's street address printed on the upper left-hand corner is a P.O. Box address.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For more detail about information on this worksheet, contact a representative from your local credit union or bank.