



Tips for teens

1. **Don't believe everything you see and read online**, especially when you're communicating with strangers. It's very easy for strangers to lie about their age, gender, or intentions.
2. **Trust your instincts.** If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, leave, or sign off.
3. **Be suspicious of any online users who want to know too much about you.** Never tell anyone online where you live, what your last name is, the name of your school (or where it is), your phone number, password, or any other personal information.
4. **Do not plan to meet up with anyone you've met online** unless your parents agree that you can, and they help make the plans and go with you.
5. **Don't download any games or files from Web sites you are unfamiliar with.** They could be carrying viruses that can seriously damage your computer.
6. **If you get suspicious e-mails, files, or pictures from someone you don't know and trust, don't open them.** Use the same caution with links or URLs (Web addresses) that look suspicious—they're not worth the risk.
7. **Never do any kind of financial transaction online without your parents' permission.**

8. If you get angry with someone online, leave the situation and cool off. Getting into online fights can get you into trouble. Remember, anyone has access to what you say online.
9. Never respond to an angry or offensive e-mail or comment, especially if you don't know who sent it.
10. Never post anything online that you might regret later.