

1. INTRODUCTION



Hey There, Digital Explorer!



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You're a digital native, right? That means you grew up with screens, games, and the internet always around. Gaming, social media, streaming cool videos, chatting with friends – it's all part of your daily life. And that's totally awesome! The internet gives you incredible chances to learn, create, connect, and have heaps of fun.

But here's the thing: just like you wouldn't walk alone in a dark, unfamiliar street at night, you need to know how to stay safe in the digital world too. This guide isn't here to scare you or stop your online fun. No way! It's here to give you digital superpowers – the knowledge and tools to spot trouble before it spots you.

Think of Tanosec as your online safety sidekick, and this guide as your digital shield. It's protection that you carry with you wherever you go online. The more you know about how online tricksters, scammers, and bullies work, the better you can protect yourself and even help your friends.

Ready to level up your online safety game? Let's go!



Trust Your Gut It's Your Online Superpower

Your Instincts Are Always Right

You know that weird feeling you get when something just doesn't seem right? That's your brain's amazing early warning system, and guess what? It works online too! If someone you've met online makes you feel uncomfortable, nervous, or confused, listen to that feeling. It's your body sending you a message!

Look out for these "Red Flag Feelings"

- Feeling like you must keep a conversation secret from your family or friends.
- Getting a "too good to be true" vibe from someone – like they're offering something amazing for nothing.
- Feeling pressured to do something you're not sure about or don't want to do.
- Sensing that someone is trying too hard to be your "best friend" super fast.
- Feeling confused about why an adult wants to be your close friend.

The "Ick Factor" Test

If something online gives you the "ick" – that gross, uncomfortable feeling in your stomach – **TRUST IT!** Your brain often spots danger signs even before you fully understand why.

- An adult who talks to you like you're way more mature than you are
- Someone who asks a lot of personal questions early in your conversations
- People who seem to know a lot about you that you don't remember sharing
- Anyone who makes you feel bad about your family, friends, or real life
- Someone who offers you gifts or money for no clear reason.

4. WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR



Social Media – Where Everything Feels Public But Danger Hides in Private

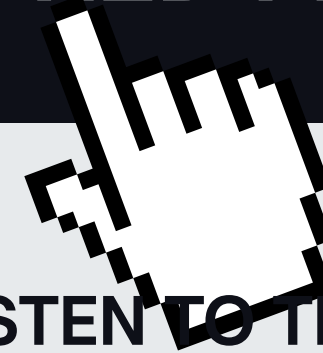
+ The DM Trap

Direct messages (DMs) are where most online tricksters try to make their move. They often start in public comments or posts, then quickly suggest moving to private messages.

Here's the usual pattern:

1. They comment on your posts with compliments or say they share your interests.
2. They send a DM saying they didn't want to "bother everyone" with their questions.
3. They gradually ask more and more personal questions.
4. They start sharing "secrets" and ask you to keep things just between you two.
5. They suggest meeting in person or ask for photos/videos that you wouldn't normally share.

If you see this pattern, hit the brakes! This is a BIG RED FLAG!



If your real-life friends think someone you met online is weird or creepy, LISTEN TO THEM. They might see something you're missing because you're caught up in the online chat. Your real friends care about you!

+ The Fake Profile Game

Creating fake profiles is super easy now, especially with AI helping to create realistic photos

Look out for these "Fake Profile" Red Flags:

- Very few posts or photos for an account that's supposedly been around for a while.
- Photos that look too perfect or professional (they might be fake or stock photos).
- A "friends" or "followers" list that doesn't make sense (like a "teenager" whose friends are all much older adults).
- Stories that don't add up or change over time.
- Refusal to video chat or talk on the phone, always having an excuse.

+ The "Modeling Scout" Scam

This is a huge trick on Instagram and TikTok. Someone claiming to be a talent scout, photographer, or modeling agent reaches out to you. They might say:

- "You have a great look for modeling!"
- "I can help you become a big influencer!"
- "Send me some photos so I can see if you're right for this opportunity."

The truth: Real modeling agencies and legitimate talent scouts have professional websites, office addresses, and they always work with your parents from the very beginning. They would never contact a minor directly like this. **This is a RED FLAG!**

