

Phishing Red-Flag Checklist

NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

You are the cybersecurity analyst. Check a flag each time you spot it. A message can still be suspicious even when it looks polished. No visible red flags prove that a message is safe; verify through the official app or site, or through a contact you already know.

Five Red Flags

- ☐ **Strange sender address.** Letters are swapped or extra words are added.
- ☐ **Urgent language.** The message pushes you to act before you can think.
- ☐ **Private-information request.** It asks for a password, ID, birth date, card number, or other private data.
- ☐ **Suspicious link or attachment.** The real address does not match the organization it claims to be.
- ☐ **Spelling or grammar problems.** Errors add to the concern, but one typo alone does not prove a message is fake.

Mark Each Email

In the flag columns, write **Y** when you see the flag and **—** when you do not. For the decision, write **Safe-looking** or **Spoofed**. Safe-looking means the image has no obvious warning sign; it still needs independent verification when the request matters.

EMAIL	SENDER	URGENCY	PRIVATE INFO	LINK/FILE	WRITING	DECISION
1						Safe-looking / Spoofed
2						Safe-looking / Spoofed
3						Safe-looking / Spoofed
4						Safe-looking / Spoofed
5						Safe-looking / Spoofed
6						Safe-looking / Spoofed
7						Safe-looking / Spoofed

Explain the Hardest Call

Email number: _____

This email is _____ because _____

Practice Safely

If your teacher asks you to draft a practice message:

- use a fictional organization and fictional address;
- do not use a real student's, teacher's, or family member's name;
- do not include a working link, QR code, attachment, password request, or login form;
- keep the draft on paper or in the assigned document; and
- do not send or post it.

My practice message uses these two red flags: _____ and _____.

What should a person do instead of clicking or replying?

Integrity Check

Why would it be dishonest or harmful to send this practice message to a real person?