



## Terms of Use

Clicking on the “Agree and Print” button (below) means that I agree that:

- i-SAFE© lessons may NOT be shared with other educators (e.g., faculty or staff) in any school or district which is not currently covered by your school’s or district’s Subscription and License Agreement.
- i-SAFE© lessons may NOT be duplicated for any reason except for your classroom use.
- i-SAFE© lesson hand-outs may be printed for students ONLY for your current classroom use.

Duplication, sale, resale and any other form of unauthorized use of i-SAFE copyrighted materials is prohibited and, therefore, a violation of law.

(I understand and agree to above Terms of Use)

Agree and Print 

Student assessments are an important component of i-SAFE. When beginning the i-SAFE program with these lessons, i-SAFE strongly encourages educators to administer the pre-assessment online at <http://auth.isafe.org/selftest/index.php>.

To verify a School ID#, login at [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org), go to the My Info page and select “Find your school ID.”

Upon completing the i-SAFE lessons, please direct your students to take the online post-assessment. Assessment data can be used by your school/district as a reliable measurement of its Internet safety education policy.

# LESSON—Choosing Safe Screen Names and Passwords

## Suggested grade level 5-6

### Lesson Guide

Learners will understand that information revealed online, such as in screen names and passwords, can be used in inappropriate ways by others.

### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- recognize risks in providing personal information in screen/user names and passwords
- state the dangers in choosing an unsafe screen/user name
- classify the types of personal information that should be avoided in constructing a safe screen/user name
- identify strategies to make screen names and passwords safe

### Materials/Preparation

- a copy of the activity page for each student

### Procedures

#### Discussion

Ensure that all students have copies of the activity page.

Briefly discuss communication and personal safety in the cyber community by providing open-ended questions to prompt discussion. Include the following:

1. What is Cyberspace, and how do we get there? (the community that you go to every time you log on to the Internet)
2. Discuss ways of communication in Cyberspace. (Adjust to your students' Internet experience level, and briefly discuss e-mail, instant messaging, and chatting.)

Use the activity page to guide the following activities.

### Activity 1

What's in a Screen Name?

Have a student read the directions aloud for the first activity. As a class, brainstorm answers and keep a list on the overhead or board. When finished, discuss the dangers inherent in choosing a user name.

Create a list on the overhead or board of personal/identifying information that should not be included in screen names. In order to protect identity in the physical world, online screen/user names should never include personal or identifying information like (but not limited to):

- first and/or last name
- address
- phone number
- date of birth (complete or partial) or age
- combinations of personal information like listed above
- combinations of personal information, such as listed above, plus descriptions like (but not limited to) gender, school name, favorite sport, favorite celebrity, family member names

## Activity 2

### Passwords Are Private

Continuing with the exercise, have a student read the directions aloud for the password activity. Again, as the class brainstorms answers, keep a list on the overhead or board. When finished, discuss the dangers of choosing an obvious password or telling others your password.

#### Emphasize that a password should:

- be lengthy, at least eight characters
- contain a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols
- be changed when secrecy is in doubt

#### Emphasize that a password should not:

- contain personal information
- be shared
- be easily guessed
- be provided in an e-mail, even if requested

#### Group work

- In small groups, have students discuss their own screen names/user IDs. Remind students not to reveal their passwords.
- Option: Make a list of student screen names, and have students rank/order them based on what they reveal about them.
- Have students prepare a short list of user names and passwords, which would be appropriate and non-identifiable on the Internet.

#### Review Discussion

- Review the need to select safe and secure screen names and passwords.
- Have students describe information that should never be revealed in screen names and passwords.
- Encourage students to change their screen names or passwords if needed, and to discuss what they have learned with their parents.
- Ask students to give reasons why knowledge of safe screen names and passwords can make them more confident users of Internet communications.



Using the lists created in the activities as guidance, have students create a poster or webpage to inform others about creating safe screen names and passwords. Post in an area where computers are used.

## Screen Name Activity Answer Key

Rank	Screen Name	Information Revealed
1	Dancingfun	General location
2	GonzalezinBrazil	name, general location
3	JessicaDance91	First name; suggested birth year '91; favorite hobby, dancing
4	FredSmith14	First name, last name, age
5	FriendlyUdaya@vnsl.net.in	name, e-mail address (provides direct means to contact), ISP provider (can lead to general location), etc.

# ACTIVITY—What's in a Screen Name?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions

Look at the screen names below. As a class, brainstorm what each says about the person who chose it. Then put the names in order from least informative (1) to most informative (5).

Rank	Screen Name	Information Revealed
	JessicaDance91	
	GonzalezinBrazil	
	FriendlyUdaya@vnsi.net.in	
	Dancingfun	
	FredSmith14	

## Think about your own screen name. What does it say about you?

When you choose a screen name, you want something that allows you to remain anonymous, or unknown. Don't include personal information.

Why do you think you shouldn't include personal information?

What are some of the dangers?

## Passwords are Private

### Directions

Look at the information about each person below. What are some common and obvious guesses as to what their passwords might be (possibly unsafe)?

Brainstorm a safe list for each one.

1. **Emma** – Emma loves soccer. The local team is her favorite. She tries to go to every single game.
2. **Ricardo** – Ricardo hopes to be a movie star someday. His favorite movie actor is Jackie Chan since he does all of his own stunts and his movies play all over the world.
3. **Ali** – Ali is afraid to forget her password. She wants something simple that she will always remember.

## Change is Good!

If you already use them, review your own screen name(s) and password(s). Would it be safer to change anything about them?