

## Scams: Student Worksheet

### Before you read

1. What do you think when you hear the word “scam?”
2. Read the following paragraph about scams. As you read, answer the question, what are the different scams mentioned in the text?



### Falling for Scams in 2020

Nowadays scams are not just limited to hustling in a game of pool; they’ve become more sophisticated. **Con artists** can use text messaging, phone calls, emails, and fake websites to swindle you out of your money. It seems daily that we receive **robocalls** about urgent situations concerning our bank account. Sometimes we get emails **out of the blue** from companies with deals that seem **too good to be true**. Of course, there are also the websites that promise beauty or health products which turn out to be **snake oil**. So how can we protect ourselves from these liars and thieves? Is there anything that can **tip you off** to the fact that you are being scammed? Luckily there are **red flags** which can help you spot the **scammers** for what they are.

1. Which 2 words above mean **scam**?

Can you match the following definitions with the bold words from the paragraph?

2. \_\_\_\_\_ An automated phone call and prerecorded message
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Unexpectedly, suddenly
4. \_\_\_\_\_, 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Someone who tries to trick you, typically for monetary gain
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Something that is sold as a treatment or medicine, but which doesn’t help at all
7. \_\_\_\_\_ To be given a small hint about some information
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Hints or a Warnings of danger

9. What do you think “fall for a scam” means?



### Discussion

1. What scams have you heard about?
2. Are there any common scams in your country/city? What are they?
3. Have you (or someone you know) ever fallen for a scam? What happened?
4. Have you ever *almost* been scammed? What tipped you off that you were being scammed?
5. Although many scams or hustles are done electronically nowadays, there are still old-fashioned hustles too. Have you ever heard of any such scams? (Pick-pocketing, selling stolen tickets outside concerts/games, gambling fraud, etc.)
6. Often older people are targets of robocalls, con artists, and scammers. Why do you think that is?

### How to Spot a Scam

7. Next think about the following question. What are some red flags of a scam? (How can you guess that someone is trying to scam you?) Make a list.
8. Now watch ***How to Spot a Scam*** by Cybercrime Support Network. Did you write any of the same things listed in the video?
9. Did any of these tips to spot a scam surprise you? Why or why not? Can you think of any additional red flags?
10. Is there anything that you do (or can do) to help your friends or family avoid scams?

**Extra:** Watch the following video ***Phone Scammer Gets Scammed by Police Captain*** and write down the red flags that the police officer noticed.