MEET THE VILLAINS

You have seen how villains laugh in movies: they go "Muhahaha. Muhahaha!!!!" They are laughing because they think they are smarter than you. Since you are new to using the internet, that might actually be true. But, by the end of this book, you will be a digital superhero that knows how to outsmart and defeat these villains. Then, they probably won't be laughing so much!

Spammers

Do you have a relative who talks to you about boring stuff that you have no interest in every time you meet? A spammer is a sort of like that annoying relative. Spammers send you messages and emails without your permission. Spammers are usually trying to get you to buy something online or advertise something. Spammers are very annoying but the least dangerous of the online villains. They don't cause real harm but they do irritate or annoy you.

Dealing with spammers is easy. Simply report them or ask an adult you trust to report them. Later in this book, we will show you how.

Black Hat Hacker

A hacker is a commonly used word for a computer programmer that really loves programming. Hackers often understand computer systems in great detail and that this why they do things that other people cannot, such as taking control of your computer through the internet. Most hackers are good people that just love computers and programming. They help us build better and stronger computer

systems that help us make our life easier. However, there are some hackers that use their talent and skills for bad things. We call these bad guys, Black Hat Hackers.

One example of a Black Hat Hacker is a person who attacked computers with a virus called WannaCry. The virus locks your computer and it threatens to delete your data unless you pay the hacker some money. This attack on computer data happened all over the world. In this attack a person's documents, photos and files were locked by the hacker and there was no way to unlock the computer unless you pay the hacker.

THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST A BLACK HAT HACKER IS TO KEEP YOUR COMPUTER AND ANTIVIRUS SYSTEM UPTODATE. WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW LATER IN THIS BOOK.
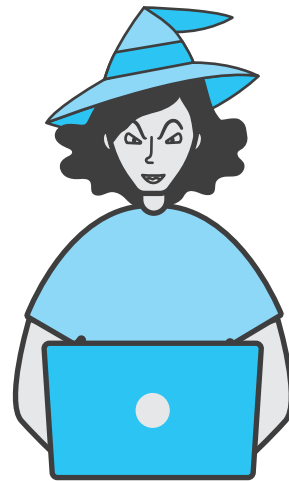
Cyberbullies

Bullies are people that try to make your life miserable by saying mean things to you. We are sure you have encountered many bullies at home or at school. There are bullies in the online world just like in the real world. Because the internet is sometimes called **Cyberspace**, the bullies you could meet online are called cyberbullies. For young people under the age of 18, cyberbullies are the most common kind of villains you meet online.

Cyberbullies could do things like:
- Directly send you mean and hurtful messages on social media, online games or online groups
- Post hurtful and insulting things on your social media posts or during online group conversations
- Spread rumors, gossip or lies about you online
- Share private pictures of you online without your permission
- Pretend to be you online and harass your friends or other people
- Pretend to be someone else and harass you

About 2 out of 10 school level students say that they have been targeted by a cyberbully. Dealing with a cyberbully can be a difficult experience for you, if you try to do it alone. The good news is that cyberbullies can be stopped by an adult. If a cyberbully is targeting you, then let a trusted adult know immediately. In a later lesson, we will go into details about how to deal with cyberbullies.

You can't be a digital superhero if you only protect yourself. A true digital superhero will also protect their friends. 7 out of 10 school level students say that they know someone who is being targeted by a cyberbully! If you have a friend who is being targeted by a cyberbully, then encourage them to reach out to an adult they trust. However, sometimes your friends are too scared or embarrassed to do it themselves. In this case, you need to be a superhero and get an adult to help them.

Catfish

In the real world you get to see your friends. You probably know their house, their friends and their parents. On the internet it can be harder to check if someone is really who they say they are. Many times we only know people online from the photos and the personal information they share. Most people online are exactly who they say they are. However some people online pretend they are someone
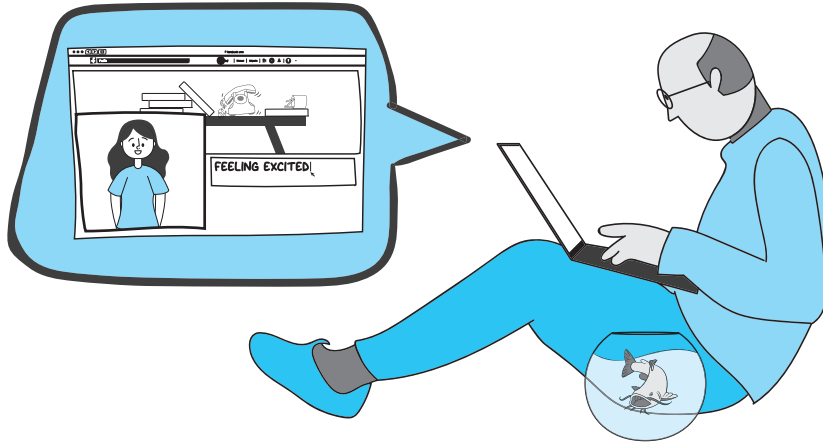
else on the internet to get you to talk to them. They are called catfish. These people might pretend to be your age even though they are older. Others might pretend they are a girl although they are a boy. Some might pretend to be living in a different country. Catfishing is quite common online.
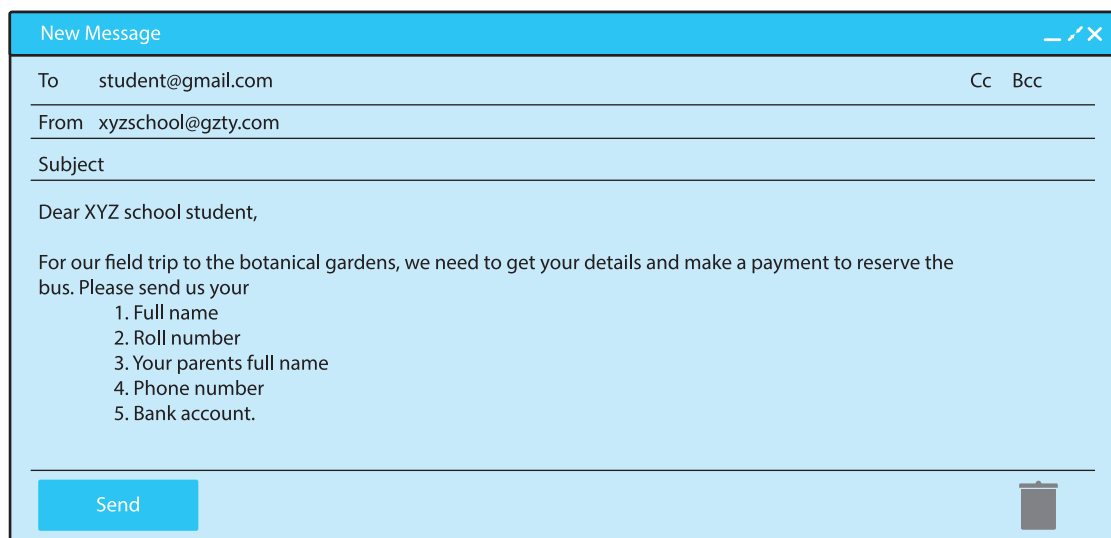
We cannot always know if someone is exactly who they say they are online. So we could always use caution with purely online friends. The safest policy to use with an online friend is to never share private information with them (though you can share personal information. See Lesson 5). Furthermore, you should never meet an online friend in the real world without first checking with a trusted adult.

Phishers

Do you know what fishermen do? They go out on a boat and try to catch fish. Fishermen use a bait - a small worm, or a shiny object - to attract the fish. Then when the fish bites into their hook, they catch it. Phishers are the online villains that go "phishing" for your private information (see Lesson 5 for details on private information) like your passwords, your parents' bank and credit card information.
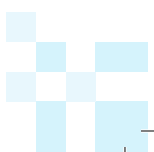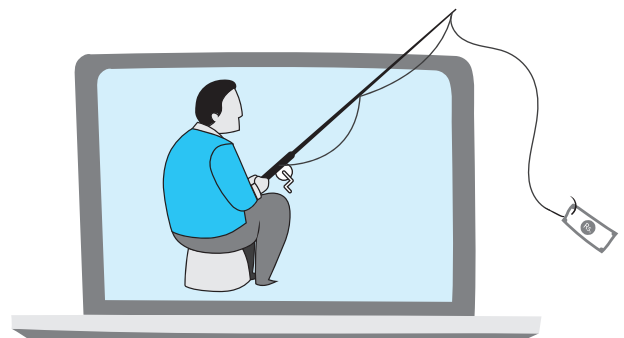
Phishers send you fake messages pretending that they are from real companies and organizations you know and trust. They try to get you to share your username, password or other private information. For example, you may get a message saying

New Message	_ ✎ ✕
To student@gmail.com	Cc Bcc
From xyzschool@gzty.com	
Subject	

Dear XYZ school student,

For our field trip to the botanical gardens, we need to get your details and make a payment to reserve the bus. Please send us your
1. Full name
2. Roll number
3. Your parents full name
4. Phone number
5. Bank account.

Send 🗑

The best way to deal with Phishing emails or messages is to delete them and report them. Phishers can be very tricky and it will be difficult to know if a message is genuine or fake. Later in the book, we will give you some superhero tools to spot these bad guys. But if you are in doubt, the safest option might be to ask an adult you trust to read the message first.

HAVE YOU HAD TO FACE ANY ONLINE VILLAINS? IF YES, HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THEM?
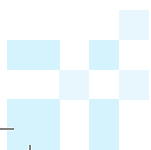
Lesson Review

In this lesson you learned

- Spammers are more annoying than dangerous. They send you a lot of messages.
- Black Hat Hackers are bad hackers that try to control your computer.
- Cyberbullies are people who bully you through the internet.
- Catfish are people who pretend to be someone else for various reasons.
- Phishers bait you to get personal and private information.

SOME NEW VOCABULARY FROM THIS LESSON

SPAMMERS OUTSMART **HACKERS**

BLACK HAT HACKERS

PHISHERS

CYBERBULLY BAIT **CATFISH**

? JOURNAL QUESTIONS

- How would you explain online villians to your friends?
- Have you had to face any online villains? If yes, how did you deal with them?