

That Message Feels Wrong

30 minutes | Beginner | Pencil; invented messages only

Fictional messages. Mark the clues; never follow the links.

MESSAGE A / PARCEL ALERT

Your parcel is held. Pay \$1.20 now at [parcel-help.example](#) or it will be destroyed.

MESSAGE B / NEW NUMBER

Hi, it is your cousin. New number. Send me the code that just arrived.

INVESTIGATE: UNDERLINE PRESSURE, PAYMENT, IDENTITY, AND CODE REQUESTS

Formulate: how can you verify through a separate, known channel?

Challenge: would your real name or perfect spelling prove it is genuine?

Revise: what is your next step if you already clicked?

Do not share codes. Tell a trusted adult if unsure. .example is an illustration domain.

Explain it. Try it with permission. Teach someone else.

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13+ | Thinkers | Everyday judgment | Keep this page separate from the challenge

WHAT THIS BUILDS

Reading everyday clues, checking information, and explaining a useful next step.

ANSWERS AND REASONING

Both contain warning signs. A pressures you to pay through an unverified link. B requests a verification code and claims a changed number. Personal details and polished writing do not prove identity. Independently verify. If clicked, tell a trusted adult; next steps depend on whether information was entered, a file downloaded, or money sent.

SUPPORT AND BOUNDARIES

No live suspicious links are used. Do not forward real codes or publish personal messages. If credentials were entered, secure the affected account through its official site with adult help; use FTC guidance for the specific exposure.

REAL-WORLD MISSION

Build a private household rule for verifying unusual money or code requests. Do not put real passwords or codes on this sheet.

GROWN-UP DISCOVERY

A familiar sender name can be imitated. Ask: What makes you pause before acting on a message?

AFTER THE MISSION

One thing we noticed: _____

One thing we would try differently: _____

Child: I can explain it / I want another practice / I need help.