# Spotting Spam Email

ABC Connect for Learning

ABC LifeLiteracyCanada

WITH FUNDING FROM

Canada

This resource created in collaboration with:

Youth Empowering Parents

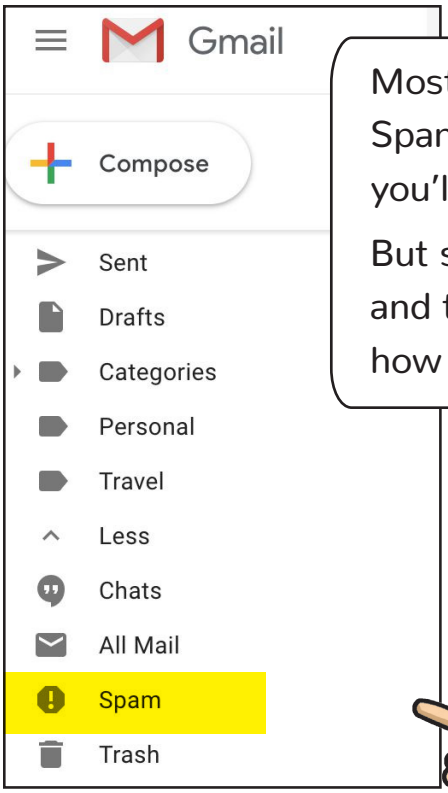
# What is a spam email?

Spam emails are emails you haven't asked for, just like junk mail you get at home.

45% of all emails in the world are spam, which is much more than the amount of junk mail you receive at home. Every day, many people become victims to a spam email.

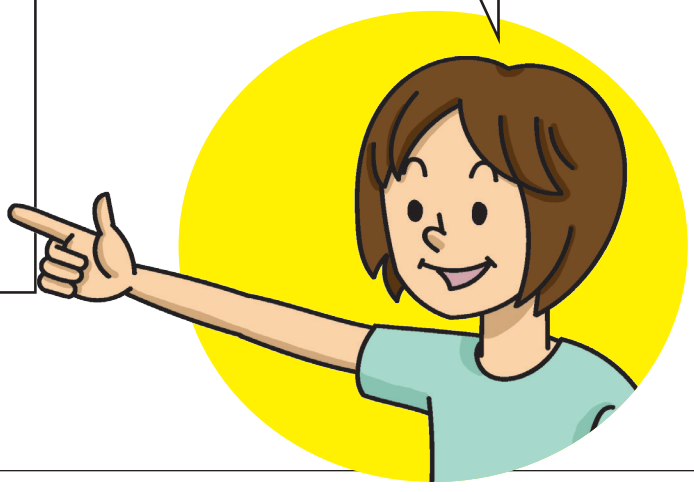
Here's why spam emails are so dangerous:

- They might give your computer a virus if you click on the links
- They might let the person who sent them see your email account and information
- They might trick you into giving someone your banking information or other personal information




Most spam emails will automatically go into a Spam folder in your email account. That means you'll never have to see them.

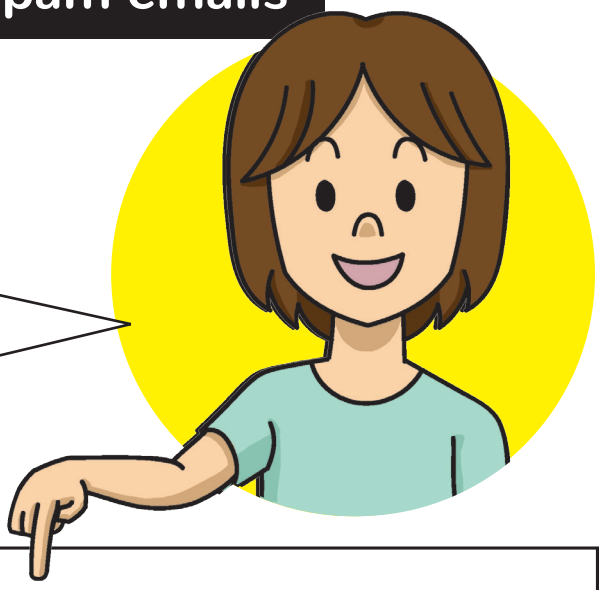
But sometimes, spam emails go to your inbox, and they might look real. In this lesson, we'll learn how to identify spam emails.



# Let's learn the different types of spam emails

## Fake charities

You may get an email that asks you to donate money to a charity. Sometimes it says a charity is going to give you money. The charity name might be real, but this email isn't from the real charity.



Dear Beloved,
Your E-mail was randomly picked by my foundation, you are to receive a donation of €500,000,00 (five hundred thousand Euros) which you must use at least 50% to touch the lives of the less privilege ones around you. I just kicked off my foundation.

Read more details about how I became a millionaire. https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-47637346

Kindly confirm the ownership of your email by sending your response to me immediately and I shall explain in detail all you need to know.
Yours faithfully,

Ade Goodchild
Goodchild Foundation

## Fake lotteries

You may get an email that says you won some money or a product, like a new phone. If you didn't sign up for the lottery or contest, it's fake.

WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR APPLE SHOPPERS

show Image

**Merry Christmas!**

You have been selected to get an exclusive reward.

To qualify for this special offer, simply complete our 30-second marketing survey about your shopping experiences.

Click Start to OK

## Fake products

You may get an email that tells you to check out a new product. It will ask you to click a link to go to a website. If you don't remember signing up for emails about this product, don't click the link.

## Emails that ask you for money

You might get an email that seems like it's from someone who needs money. It might sound like they need your help very badly.

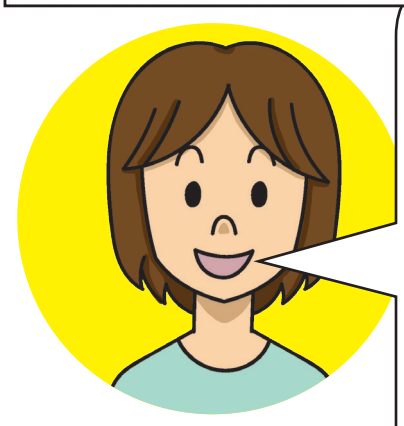
From Shirley Jill McAllen /

This message was identified as junk. We'll delete it after 3 days. It's not junk

SM

Shirley Jill McAllen <sulaimontunde234@miserver.buzz>
Sun 2019-12-29 6:33 PM

Hello Dear,
I know you will be surprised reading from me today but considers this a divine intervention. My name is Shirley Jill McAllen, widow with stage 4 cancer.
I saw your email in my search for someone I can trust to assist utilize the proceeds realized from my estates and investments for charity, basically helping the less privileged, widows and orphans because according to the doctors my days are numbered.
I desire to entrust this amount of money in your care and It is my last wish to use this money strictly for charity hence seek a sincere heart to actualize this as my health no longer permit me.
I am willing to give you a substantial part of the funds for your personal and family needs so reply to my email and give me your word never to betray my trust. I have to rest now and will explain further when i hear from you. God bless you,
Shirley Jill McAllen



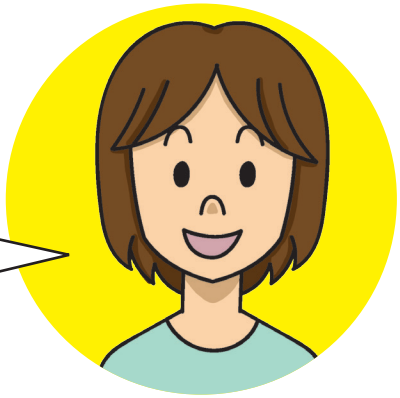
If you get this kind of email, here are some rules to follow:

- If you don't know the person, don't send them money
- If the email looks like it's from a friend or family member, you should still be careful. Someone dishonest could have hacked into their email account and pretended to be them. Before you answer the email, call your friend or family member. Never send them money just because they emailed you.

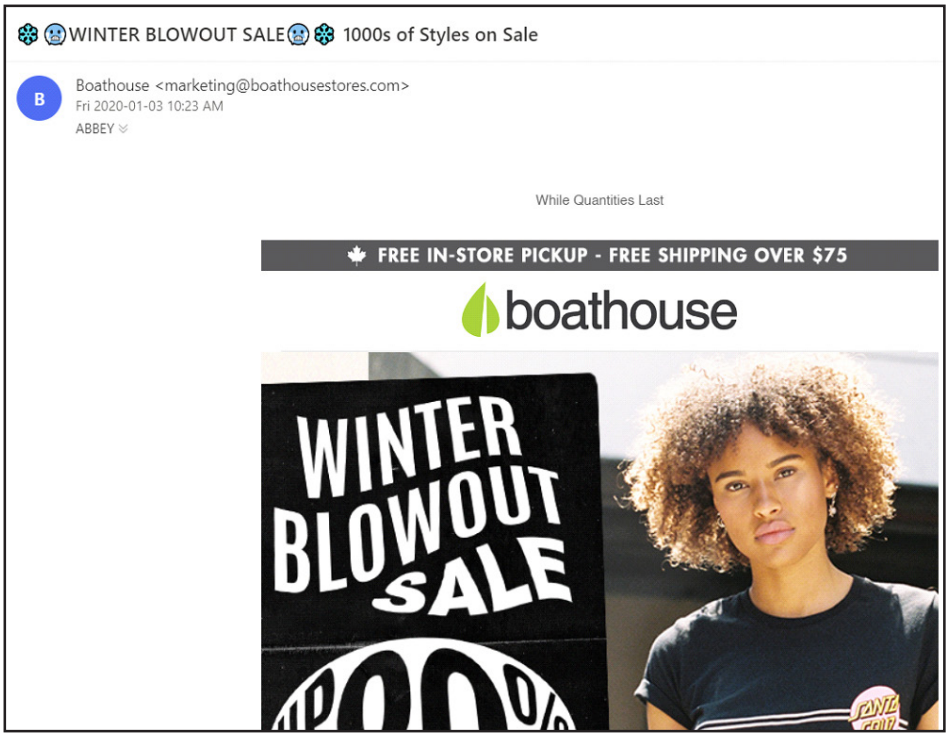
# How can I identify a spam email?

Below are two emails from retail stores.
One is real and the other is a spam email.

Can you guess which one is real?



**1**

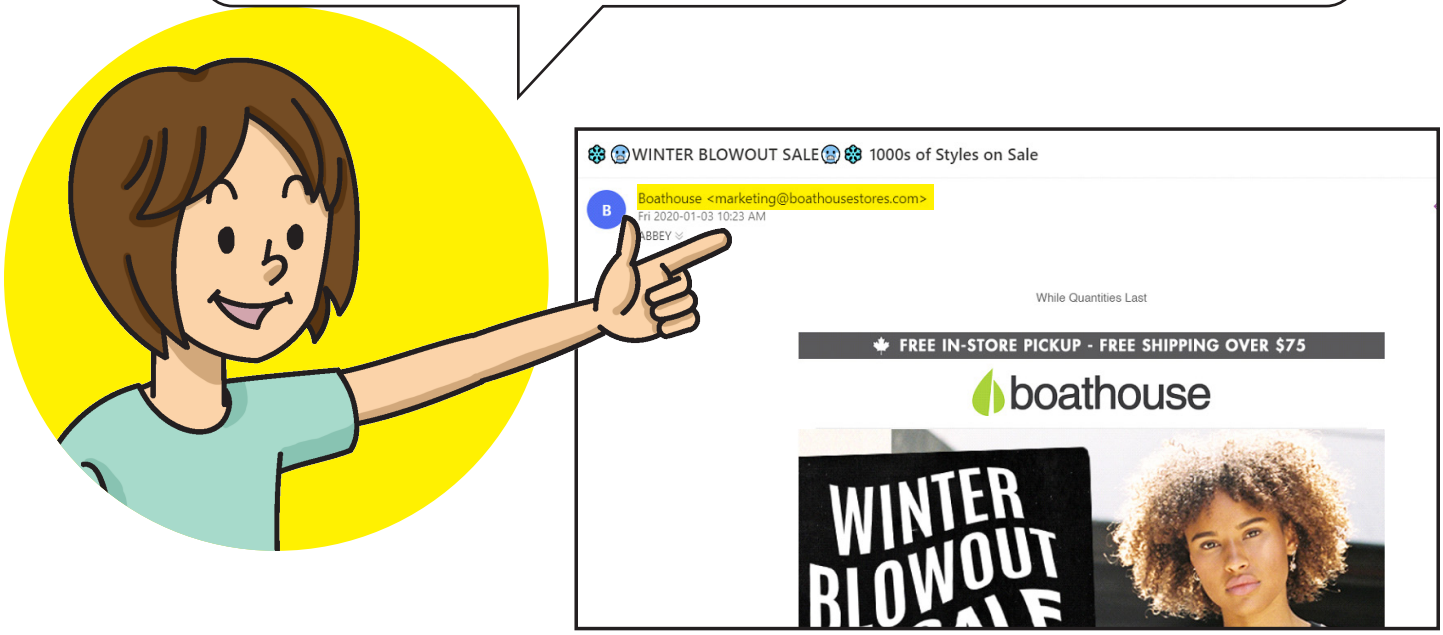



**2**

## Email #1 is real

The easiest way to tell if an email is real is by looking at the name and email address.

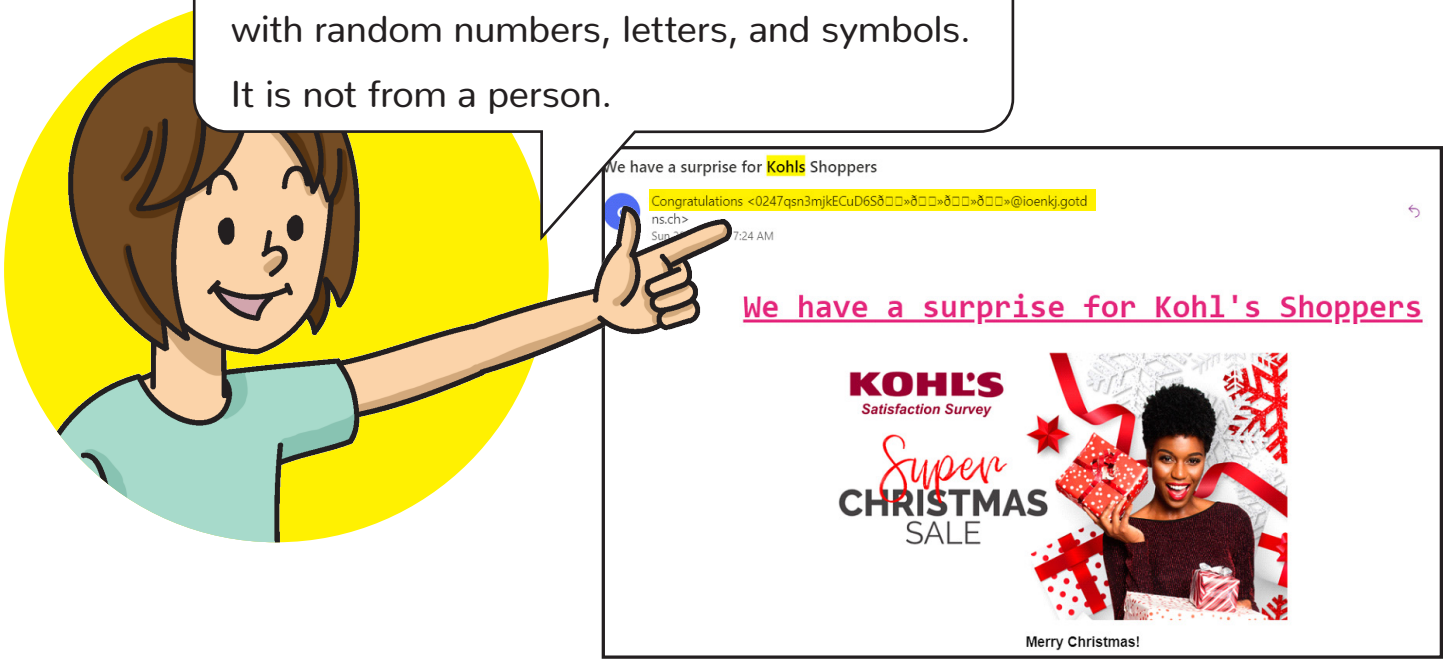
The email address and name matches the advertisement.




## Email #2 is fake

In the other email, the email address is filled with random numbers, letters, and symbols.

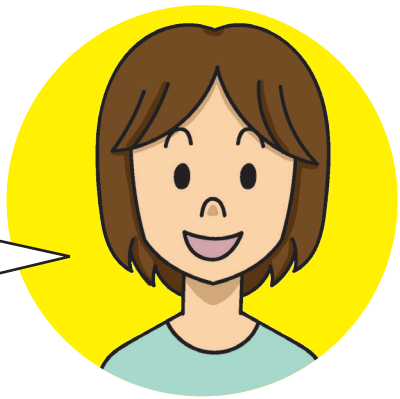
It is not from a person.



# Let's look at another example

Below are two emails that say they are from Starbucks. One of them is actually from Starbucks, and one of them is a fake.

Can you guess which one is real?



**1**

Welcome to your Starbucks account

**Starbucks Coffee Company** <orders@starbucks.com>
to me

1:18 PM (0 minutes ago)

French › English Translate message Turn off for: French

Hi Abbey,

Thanks for joining Starbucks.

For added security, please **verify your email address** to confirm that this account belongs to you. This is where we'll send notifications about your account activity.

**Verify Email**

Have a Starbucks gift card? Join Our Loyalty Program
In the My Starbucks Rewards™ program, you can earn rewards like free drinks and food.

**2**

Congrats! You've been selected to participate

This message was identified as junk. We'll delete it after 9 days. It's not junk | Show blocked content

Congratulations <POhiUAKXxbtJOoywdð□□»ð□□»ð□□»@ioenkj.gotdns.ch>
Sun 2020-01-05 1:23 AM
You

**Congrats! You've been selected to participate in our monthly $100 Starbucks Promotion!**

**Take this 30 second survey about Starbucks and we'll offer you exclusive rewards over $50**

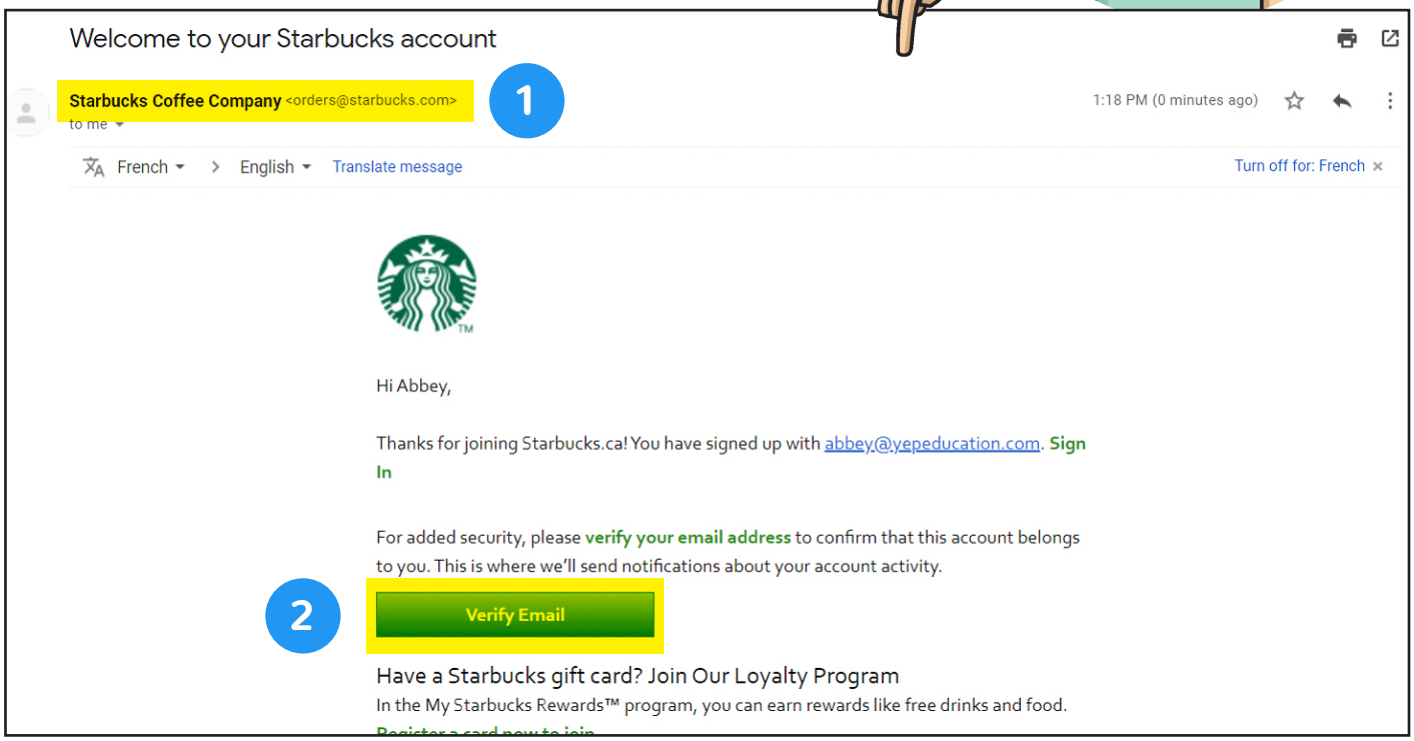
**CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED >**

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED RECEIVING THIS EMAIL. SHOULD YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE EMAILS FROM THIS COMPANY, VISIT THIS LINK TO **UNSUBSCRIBE**

# Email #1 is real

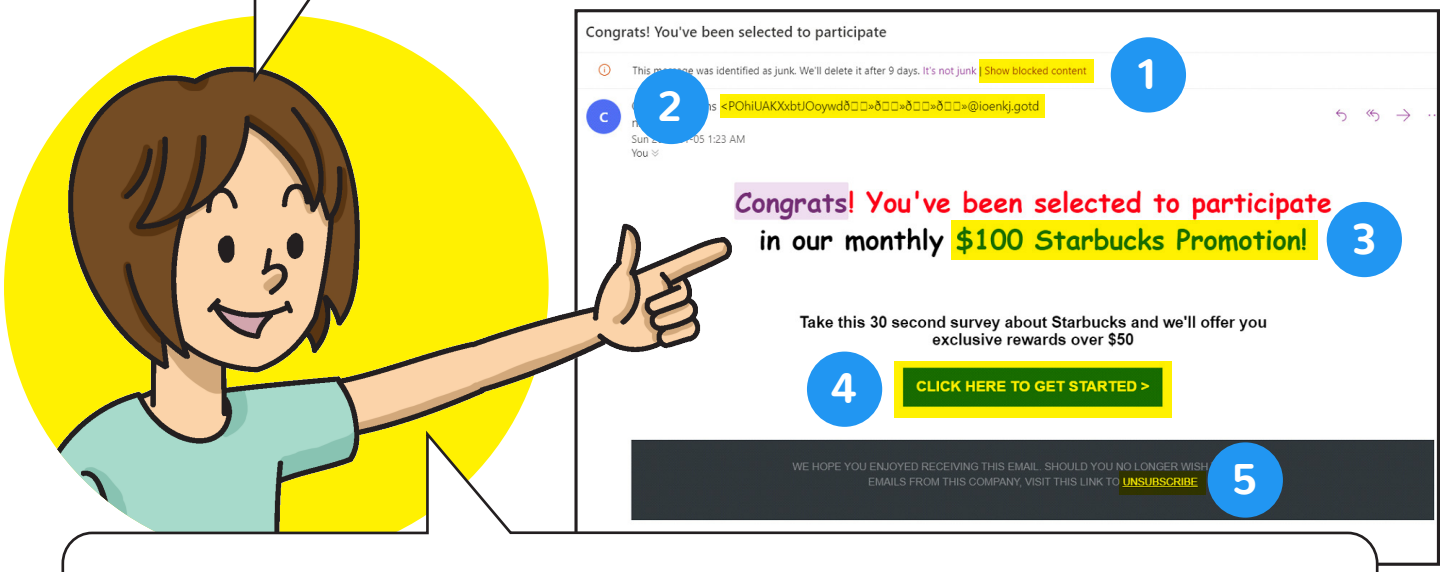
1. The email is from Starbucks. That matches the information about Starbucks in the email.
2. The email asks you to click a link to verify your email address. You will usually get an email like this if you sign up for an account somewhere. In this example, you will get this email if you sign up for a Starbucks account on their website.

   If you get an email like this and you remember signing up, then it's OK to click on the link.



# Email #2 is fake

There are several ways to tell that it's spam.




1. Sometimes your email account will block certain things in the email. For example, it may block images. If your email account blocks any part of the email, you'll see a message saying **Show blocked content** at the top. This  is your first sign that it's a spam email
2. The email address is a random collection of numbers, letters and symbols.
3. When something seems too good to be true, like getting a $100 Starbucks promotion, it probably is too good to be true.
4. Any email that tries to get you to do a survey and promises a reward is probably spam.
5. If you never subscribed to the email in the first place, don't click unsubscribe. This is another way the email is trying to trick you into clicking a dangerous link.

If you do accidentally click on any links on a fake email, your computer should warn you that links can be dangerous and might give a virus to your computer. If you ever get this message, make sure to click on **Back** on the internet browser.

## Review

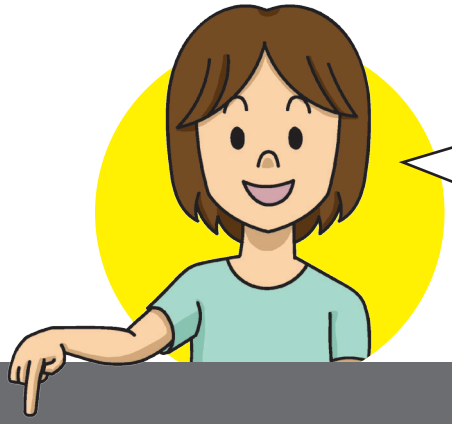
Did everything make sense?

Is there anything you want to try again?

For more information about spam emails, you can visit this Government of Canada webpage:

getcybersafe.gc.ca/cnt/rsks/scms-frd/ml-en.aspx

## Now let's see what you've learned




| Can you... | Yes | Not Yet |
|---|---|---|
| Identify a spam email? | ☐ | ☐ |
| Identify a real email? | ☐ | ☐ |

## What do you want to do next?

☐ **Refresh,**
let's go over this lesson again

☐ **I understand it all,**
let's go to the next lesson