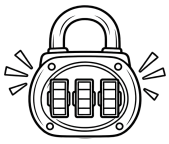
# Escape the Scam

Name _____ Date _____

**You're locked in! Each lock opens with a code. Read each message and find its red flags (the signs it's a scam). The numbers of the red flags, smallest first, open the lock.**

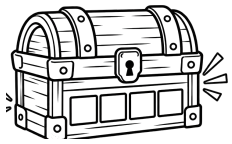


## LOCK 1
## The Prize Text

Text from (555) 010-4471

[1]Hi from the Summer Giveaway team! [2]You WON a $500 gift card! [3]We picked your number at random. [4]Claim it in the next 10 minutes [5]at prize-claim-now.top/win [6]Have a great day.

**3 red flags → code:** ☐ ☐ ☐

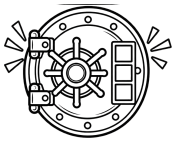


## LOCK 2
## The Gift Card Ask

Message from @coach.dana.real (joined today)

[1]Hey, it's Coach Dana! New account. [2]I'm stuck at an event [3]and my card isn't working. [4]Can you buy two $50 gift cards [5]and send me the codes on the back? [6]I'll pay you back Monday. [7]Don't tell your parents, it's a surprise! [8]Thanks!!

**4 red flags → code:** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐



## LOCK 3
## The Copycat Site

[1]🔒 northbridge-bank-login.co

[2]**WARNING: Your account is LOCKED.** [3]The Northbridge Bank logo and colors look just right. [4]To unlock, enter your username, password **and** your PIN. [5]Footer: © Northbridge Bank. Privacy · Help

The real site is northbridgebank.com

**3 red flags → code:** ☐ ☐ ☐



## LOCK 4
## The Urgent DM

DM from @Support-Team-Official

- ● Your account will be DELETED in 1 hour!
- ▲ Thanks for following our page.
- ■ To verify, send us your password.
- ★ Or pay a $5 fee to keep your account.

**Lock 4 is a shape lock. Shade every shape that marks a red flag:** ○ △ □ ☆

## MY MONEY CHOICE

**A friend got one of these messages. What would you tell them to do?**

_____

_____

WealthWise KIDS

© 2026 WealthWise Kids LLC. All rights reserved.
Free for home and classroom use. Please don't sell or repost.
wealthwisekids.org

# Escape the Scam

## The quick lesson (read aloud, about 1 minute)

> A **scam** is a trick to get your money or your private information. Scammers pretend to be someone you trust: a prize team, a coach, a bank or "Support." They nearly always use the same red flags: a surprise prize, a rush, a request for gift cards, a secret, a copycat website, or a request for a password or PIN.

## Two teaching points

1. Rush + secret + gift cards = **stop and tell a trusted adult**.
2. Never use the link in the message. Check by going to the real website or calling the real person yourself.

## Answer key

Lock 1: **2 4 5** (a prize you never entered, a 10-minute rush, a strange link).
Lock 2: **1 4 5 7** (a brand-new account claiming to be someone you know, gift cards, send the codes, keep it secret).
Lock 3: **1 2 4** (wrong web address, a scare banner, asks for your PIN. Logos are easy to copy.)
Lock 4: shade the **circle, square and star** (rush, password request, pay-to-keep fee). The triangle is a normal line.

## 10-minute run

1. Partners crack the 4 locks (6 min).
2. Check codes against the key.
3. Build a class list of red flags.

## Ask

"Which red flag would be easiest to miss? Why?"

## Goal

Spot scam red flags: surprise prizes, rush, gift cards, secrets, copycat sites, password or PIN requests.

## Take it further

In the U.S., scams can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Ask: "Who would you tell first?"

Standard: National Standards for Personal Financial Education (Council for Economic Education and Jump$tart), area: **Managing Risk**. Print double-sided: the activity on the front, this teaching side on the back.

WealthWise KIDS

© 2026 WealthWise Kids LLC. All rights reserved.
Free for home and classroom use. Please don't sell or repost. **wealthwisekids.org**