

## Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

March 10, 2016

Article: “Be aware of Identity Theft”

Sunday, March 6, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, NIE Special Section, page J8

### Pre-Reading:

Look up and read the definition of ‘identity’. Brainstorm a list of things that tell others your identity. How is your identity formed – what defines you? What influences the formation of your identity? Can you have multiple identities (i.e. do you have a different identity online or at home than you at school)? Is important to have a unique identity? Why might someone want to steal your identity? What might be some consequences of identity theft – how would you feel if it happened to you?

### Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

*Antivirus*

*Device(s)*

*Federal offense*

*Firewall*

*Fraudulent*

*Identity*

*Password*

*Private*

*Public*

*Scam*

*Secure*

*Social Security Number*

*Software*

*Unauthorized*

*Victim*

### Comprehension:

1. List the eight techniques of identity theft mentioned in the article.

2. What is the difference between 'phishing' and 'smishing'?
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ can get into your device and steal information on it **(Fill in the blank)**.
4. What are two steps that can minimize your risk of ID theft over Wi-Fi networks?
5. How can you secure your technology?
6. What is the first thing you should do if you become the victim of identity theft?
7. What do the following abbreviations stand for:

SSN:

RFID:

### **Post-Reading:**

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

***“Be stingy with social media: Information in your bio, such as birthday, family members, phone number and other personal information can be used to steal your identity. Just think what someone can do if they know your name, your age, where you go to school, where you live, your BFF’s names, the names and faces of your family members.”***

What is privacy? How important is privacy to you? Do you think privacy is a right or a privilege? How does the internet increase or decrease your privacy? Are social media sites a potential threat to privacy? How do you protect your privacy online versus offline? How are online and offline privacy different?

### **Building Language Skills:**

Read the following passage, and complete the activity below:

***“Kelly photographed the first five sunrises of his waking day Tuesday, posting the pictures on twitter before quipping, ‘I gotta go’ His final tweet from orbit came several hours later: “The journey isn’t over. Follow me as I rediscover #Earth!”***

Choose one of the eight identity theft techniques from the article. Create your own ad or public service announcement informing others about this type of identity theft. Where might it occur? Who might be vulnerable? Include an illustration or example, as well as tips for how to avoid identity theft. Explain the steps that people should take if their identity is stolen.

## Comprehension Question Answers:

1. List the eight techniques of identity theft mentioned in the article. **Dumpster diving, phishing, smishing, shoulder surfing, key loggers, hacking, job recruitment scams, ATM skimmers.**
2. What is the difference between 'phishing' and 'smishing'? **Smishing uses text messaging instead of e-mailing to ask the victim about personal information.**
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ can get into your device and steal information on it **(Fill in the blank)**. A **hacker** can get into your device and steal information on it.
4. What are two steps that can minimize your risk of ID theft over Wi-Fi networks? **To minimize your risk of ID theft over a Wi-Fi network, make sure to get the name of the location's Wi-Fi and connect only to secure Wi-Fi hotspots that require a password.**
5. How can you secure your technology? **To secure your technology make sure you have up-to-date antivirus and firewall protection. Additionally, make sure to design strong passwords.**
6. What is the first thing you should do if you become the victim of identity theft? **The first thing that you should do if you become the victim of identity theft is contact your financial institution.**
7. What do the following abbreviations stand for:

SSN: **Social security number**

RFID: **Radio Frequency Identification**