

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

If someone sends you an inappropriate text message, what would you do? And what is an inappropriate message, anyway? Is it a message from a stranger? Is it a message from an adult who wants to meet with you alone? Is it a mean message from a friend that makes you feel like you've just been bullied? The answer to the last three questions is YES!

So what can you do? It's simple.

- ★ **Know who is texting or calling you.** Never use your phone to communicate with people you don't know.
- ★ **Know what NOT to send.** The impact of words or pictures can be significant.
- ★ **Know whether you should respond.** If you receive an inappropriate text message, tell a parent or trusted adult.



YOUR PHONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO:

- ★ Help you get in touch with your friends and family.
- ★ Keep you safe in an emergency.
- ★ Get information you need anytime.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN SAFETY BY:

- ★ Programming family and friends' numbers into your phone.
- ★ Knowing who to contact in case of emergency.
- ★ Not answering calls from people you don't know or replying to inappropriate text messages.
- ★ Being courteous when talking and texting, because aggressive behavior online and on phones can have serious consequences.



HOW CELL SAVVY ARE YOU?

Answer the following questions using your knowledge of cell phone safety and etiquette. You can check your answers on the back page.

- 1 Your friend tells you about a cool new game that you can download on your cell phone. You...**
 - a** find the link on the Internet and download the game.
 - b** ask your parents first because there may be a charge to your account.
 - c** give your friend your phone and have him download it for you.
- 2 You receive a picture message from a classmate that makes you feel uncomfortable. You...**
 - a** send back a text telling him to leave you alone.
 - b** show your parent when you get home.
 - c** send it to a friend and ask what they think.
- 3 You receive an inappropriate text message from someone you don't know. You...**
 - a** respond to the text.
 - b** ignore it and hope it does not happen again.
 - c** don't respond and take your phone to a parent or other trusted adult.

Make sure you are not texting while walking across a street or at any other time when you need to be paying attention.

FUN FACT!

The first cellular car phone—developed for a test in Chicago—weighed 82 pounds and took up half the car's trunk!

- 4 You're going into the library and a sign reminds visitors that cell phones should not be used. You...**
 - a** turn your phone to silent.
 - b** ignore the sign and hope no one hears you if you get a call.
 - c** ask the librarian what to do.
- 5 Your friend gets a text message from someone at school that upsets her. You tell her to...**
 - a** go to a parent or a trusted adult.
 - b** send back a message that is nastier.
 - c** ignore it and go have fun.
- 6 You're at the movies with your friends and your phone vibrates. You...**
 - a** answer it—the movie is boring.
 - b** ignore it—you're watching a movie.
 - c** leave the theater to take the call if it's important.
- 7 Your friends are sending around an embarrassing picture message of a classmate. You...**
 - a** forward it when you receive it.
 - b** ignore it—this kind of thing happens all the time.
 - c** tell your friends to stop this mean and inappropriate behavior.
- 8 You receive a text message to meet someone you don't know. You...**
 - a** respond and ask who it is.
 - b** don't respond and tell a parent or trusted adult.
 - c** go to meet the person, who sounds cool.



WIRELESS SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Get Wise About Wireless by reading these sentences. Then, find the 12 bold words in the puzzle below.

- 1 Always be **courteous** when using your cell phone around others.
- 2 Be **accountable**; take **action** if someone contacts you by text and it makes you feel uncomfortable.
- 3 It is not safe to type a text **message** while you are crossing the street.
- 4 Some **cellular** phones let you log onto the Internet.
- 5 Always put your phone on **vibrate** before you go into a movie.
- 6 A **wireless** phone can keep you in touch with friends and family.
- 7 Never send an embarrassing **picture** to your **friends**!
- 8 Be **aware** of the kinds of text messages that upset people, whether you're sending or receiving them.
- 9 The content of your **text** message should never include inappropriate language.
- 10 How many of your friends have their favorite song as their **ringtone**?

W	I	R	E	L	E	S	S	T	E	X	T
Y	N	P	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	M	O
S	T	I	A	R	A	L	U	L	L	E	C
A	E	C	C	F	R	T	A	A	T	S	O
F	R	T	T	E	D	T	W	C	R	S	U
E	N	U	I	S	L	N	A	T	D	A	R
T	E	R	O	I	F	T	R	I	E	G	T
P	T	E	N	O	X	V	E	O	R	E	E
U	V	I	B	R	A	T	E	N	Q	U	O
A	C	C	O	U	N	T	A	B	L	E	U
D	R	I	N	G	T	O	N	E	V	G	S

DID YOU KNOW?

The first portable cellular phone was nicknamed “the brick,” weighed 2 pounds, offered ½ hour of talk time for every recharge, and cost \$3,995.

SCRIPT IT!

If someone has sent you a text, picture, or voicemail message that makes you feel uncomfortable, do you know what to do? Read this script to find out!

The scene opens and two girls are walking through the park. Kelly has short, spiky hair; Tara’s is long and curly. It’s a spring day and they are both wearing light jackets and sneakers.

Tara (quietly) So, I got this message from Erin yesterday.

Kelly (absently) Yeah, so, don’t you talk to Erin every day? Hey, did you hear that John and Max were fighting in Mrs. Petersen’s class today?

Tara (close to tears) No. Listen. It was really nasty. There was a lot of awful stuff.

Kelly (confused) Are you sure it wasn’t just a joke? You know how Erin is sometimes.

Tara (frustrated and beginning to walk faster) Just forget it. I gotta go.

Kelly No, wait. I’m sorry, tell me exactly what she wrote.

Tara (slowing down and looking directly at Kelly) She said I am ugly, that no one really likes me, and that people only hang out with me because they think my big brother is cool. That really hurt my feelings. But then she also wrote that if I come to school tomorrow, something bad will happen to me. I don’t know what to do.

Kelly (looks angry) That’s awful. I don’t know what Erin’s problem is, maybe she is jealous of you, but what you should do is tell your mom or dad right away. I’ll go with you if you want. It’s no big deal if I miss swim practice today.

Tara (relieved but worried) Thanks. Are you sure you don’t mind missing practice? I don’t want to talk to my parents alone.

Kelly (looks directly at her) No, it’s cool. Come on, I’ll wait with you at your house until they get home.

FILL IN A FAMILY CONTRACT

What do you think would happen if you told your parents or guardians about an inappropriate text message you received? Do you think they’d freak out and take away your phone? Want a way to try to make sure that doesn’t happen? Use the contract that your teacher gives you to talk to your parents/guardians. The contract will ensure that you can go to your parents or guardians

about text messages that you send or receive. Sit down at home and read the contract with your parents/guardians. After you both sign it, put it somewhere safe—maybe on a family bulletin board to remind everybody. Remember to be aware and accountable when it comes to texting. And take action if you get an inappropriate text.

Answers: How Cell Savvy Are You?

1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) 7) 8) 9)

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www.wirelessfoundation.org

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Smart Socializing Starts Here™

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