

Name _____ Date _____

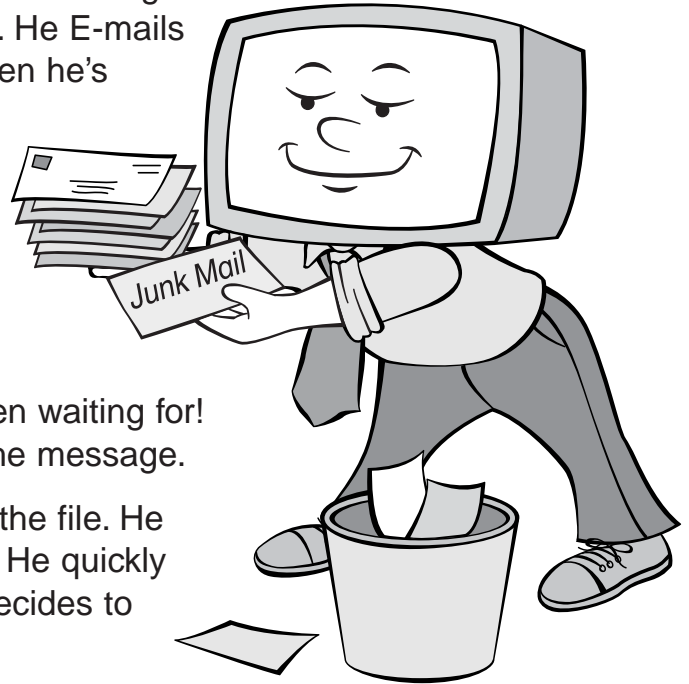
Handling E-mail

Charlie is only eleven, but he's pretty good at E-mailing. He keeps in touch with his brother at college. He E-mails his friend who moved to a different state. When he's sick at home, Charlie E-mails his teacher for assignments.

One day Charlie gets an E-mail from an address he doesn't recognize. In the "Subject" box, it says "Smile, I've got great news!"

The message reads, "Here's what you've been waiting for! Click here." There is no name at the end of the message.

Wondering who it's from, Charlie downloads the file. He finds a picture and message that startle him. He quickly deletes the E-mail and the picture file, and decides to not to tell his parents.



Who did Charlie think the E-mail was from? Why?

Was it a good idea to click to download?

Was it a good idea not to mention the E-mail to his parents? Why or why not?

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Unwanted E-mails

Charlie enjoys using E-mail to keep in touch with his family, friends, and teachers. He likes getting E-mail. So, when he got unexpected E-mail he was surprised and wasn't sure what to do.

Chances are, the E-mail sent to Charlie was sent to thousands of other people, too. The sender is probably a company trying to sell something. This kind of unwanted E-mail is called **spam**. Sometimes spam may even address you by name. Don't let this confuse you—the company's computer is simply placing your name in the E-mail.

Unwanted E-mail can also come from individuals. You know that kids can sometimes pass unkind or rude notes in school. It can happen with E-mail, too. Some people send E-mail messages to bother other people. The messages can be embarrassing, hateful, or even scary. These kinds of messages could make you feel uncomfortable, especially if they come from a stranger.

Knowing what to do puts YOU in charge of your E-mail

- Don't open E-mail from strangers.
- If you open an E-mail by mistake, don't click on links or download files that came with it. You could introduce a virus into your computer.
- Never reply to E-mails from strangers.
- Know that spam is a kind of advertising. Do not reply to spam—even to tell a company not to send more messages.
- Ask your parents or guardian for permission before putting any private information in an E-mail.
- Ask permission before E-mailing photos of yourself.
- Tell a parent or guardian about any E-mail that makes you uncomfortable—even if it's from someone you know.