

# Quick How-To:

## How to Recognize a Fake Social Media Message

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### Who is this for?

This guide is for anyone wanting to learn how to identify fake messages used to trick or deceive users into opening dangerous unprotected links or fake webpages.

### Step 1: Be Wary of Messages That Seem Urgent or feel Strange

- If someone sends a message saying, 'Click this now!' or 'You've won!', take a moment to think.
- Don't click links right away, especially if it feels odd or is too good to be true.

### Step 2: Check If You Know the Person

- If it's from a friend but feels strange, their account may have been hacked.
- Ask them in person or by phone, discontinue any conversations or interactions until you know 100%.

### Step 3: Don't Click Suspicious Links or Attachments

- Fake links may look real but send you to dangerous websites.
- Never enter passwords or personal info from a link in a message.

### Step 4: Report the Message

- Most platforms let you report spam or fake accounts. Doing this helps protect others too.

### You Did It!

Now you know how to spot fake messages — keeping your online space and information safe.