

LifeSmarts U Personal Finance Lesson
Shop Smart Online, Student Handout

Each group will be assigned one of the online shopping scenarios. Read the situation for your group to decide what kind of information is relevant and what research is needed before clicking the “Buy” button.

1. Emma’s friends told her about a website selling discounted concert tickets to their favorite band’s upcoming show. She usually buys concert tickets from another retailer but their prices are much higher this time. Emma believes she’s found a great deal. Her friends already have their tickets and she doesn’t want to miss the show. She wants to use her debit card. How should she resolve this?
2. Natasha found a leather jacket online. The store is based in Spain. She lives in California and has never purchased from an overseas seller before. The company does not have any U.S. locations but accepts many forms of online payment. The website includes the company’s contact information and a list of physical stores in Spain. She finds several reviews with a mixture of positive and neutral feedback about the jacket and the business. Should she click “Buy?”
3. Luke has spent hours watching an online auction for a new device that was just released. The price is much lower than the local big-box superstore, and he wants to place the winning bid. He has shopped through the auction site many times but is unfamiliar with the individual who is selling the device. He figures it should be okay, because the seller has plenty of 4-star reviews. The auction site provides 100% purchase protection. What research should he do before clicking “Bid”?
4. Adam is playing a “free” video game he downloaded onto his iPad. He’s using the Wi-Fi connection at a local café. To earn more points, he’ll have to spend \$5 on a virtual “coins” package. Adam wouldn’t normally purchase something in an app but is eager to continue playing. He believes the café’s Wi-Fi must be secure because he’s never had issues with it in the past. As long as he gets an e-receipt, he thinks his purchase is safe. He starts typing in his credit card information. Is Adam’s purchase totally secure?

