

Stop the Scam Countdown

Learning goal

Pause and verify an urgent money message through a separate trusted route.

Preparation

Print the pupil pages. Let pairs calculate or reason with the three cards, then justify the answer. No real household data is needed.

Teaching flow

5 min**Hook**

Read the story aloud. Ask which card facts are known and what the class needs to find out.

10 min**Model**

Think aloud through task 1: Underline two pressure or danger clues in the message.

20 min**Practise**

Pupils tackle tasks 2 and 3. Ask which card fact supports each answer.

7 min**Discuss**

Discuss this likely misconception: A familiar name or polished design is not proof that a message is real. Use invented messages only.

3 min**Exit**

Use the reflection as the exit check: What is the first safe action when a money message feels urgent?

Evidence of learning

Stop and do not act through the message; check with a trusted adult.

Stop the Scam Countdown

Model answers

1. The countdown, urgent closure claim, link and code request are warning clues.
2. No. Do not tap the link or give a code.
3. Ask a trusted adult and contact the organisation through a known official route chosen independently.

Reflection check

What is the first safe action when a money message feels urgent?

Look for: Stop and do not act through the message; check with a trusted adult.

Watch for

A familiar name or polished design is not proof that a message is real. Use invented messages only.

Adapt the lesson

Support: Highlight the timer, link and code request with three colours.

Stretch: Compare a second message that impersonates a friend and plan an independent check.

Teach at home

Use one fictional card at a time. Let the pupil reason first, then check with the model answers.

Notes: what can the pupil already explain?

Teaching example: not personal financial advice.