

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SCAM SURVIVAL

FAKE DEALS LOOK FAMILIAR. VERIFY BEFORE YOU BUY.

FIVE HOLIDAY CLASSICS — AND THE CHECK THAT STOPS EACH ONE.



THE 80%-OFF AD

A familiar brand. An unbelievable price. An unfamiliar site. The item may never arrive — or may be nothing like the ad.

CHECK SKIP THE AD. FIND THE OFFICIAL SITE YOURSELF.



THE DELIVERY TEXT

A message says your package needs a fee or address update. Holiday volume makes the bait feel real.

CHECK DON'T TAP. CHECK THE ORDER OR CARRIER SITE DIRECTLY.



THE GIFT CARD DRAINER

A scammer records the number and PIN before you buy the card. When you load it, they drain it.

CHECK INSPECT THE SEAL AND PIN COVER. KEEP THE RECEIPT.



THE CHARITY THAT APPEARED YESTERDAY

A familiar-sounding name. Heavy emotion. Few clear details. Research the exact organization before donating.

CHECK USE GIVE.ORG OR CHARITYNAVIGATOR.ORG FIRST.



THE “ACCOUNT LOCKED” RUSH

An urgent message claims your retailer, payment, or bank account is locked. The link is the trap.

CHECK IGNORE THE LINK. OPEN THE REAL APP OR SITE YOURSELF.

THE ONE RULE THAT SURVIVES DECEMBER

IF YOU DIDN'T START THE CONVERSATION, DON'T FINISH IT.

Open the retailer, carrier, charity, or financial app yourself. Do not let an incoming link choose the destination.