

# CELL PHONE SAVVY

Get **Wise** About **Wireless**  
Be Safe, Be Courteous



## INSIDE:

- Tips to Help Keep You Safe on Your Cell Phone and Online
- Test Your Cell Savvy with Quizzes and Puzzles
- Why a Family Cell Phone Contract Might Be Right for You

Enter the **GET WISE ABOUT WIRELESS WRITING CONTEST** for the opportunity to win a trip to **WASHINGTON, D.C.**, and a **NEW CELL PHONE!** Contest deadline is April 3, 2009. Ask your teacher or go to [www.weeklyreader.com/cellphone](http://www.weeklyreader.com/cellphone) for the entry form.

**WIN  
A  
TRIP!**

# GET WISE ABOUT CELL PHONE SAFETY

While cell phones may be cool tools to have, they come with responsibility. We need to be wise about wireless to be safe.

## ► KNOW WHO IS CALLING, TEXTING, OR EMAILING.

Only use your phone to communicate with people you know. If you get a message from someone you don't know—don't respond.

## ► KNOW WHAT NOT TO SAY OR SEND.

What falls into this category? Inappropriate pictures, threatening messages, insults, or anything else that you wouldn't say in person. Remember—messages can be forwarded and saved, so don't say or send anything you'll end up regretting. Only leave or send messages that you'll own up to and are OK with the possibility of others seeing or hearing if your messages or pictures get forwarded.

You shouldn't give out personal information to people you don't know. This includes things like your name, phone number, and address.



## ► KNOW WHEN IT'S OK TO RESPOND, AND WHEN TO TELL A TRUSTED ADULT.

If you receive an inappropriate message or call, tell a parent or trusted adult. A message is inappropriate if it makes you uncomfortable or scared, or if you feel threatened or bullied.



## KEEP COURTESY IN MIND

- **Speak in a normal or quiet voice**—don't shout.
- **Follow the rules.** Cell phone use is not allowed in some places.
- **Put your phone on vibrate** when you're at the movies, in a library, or at a religious service.



## CELL SAVES HORSE

There it was—a horse struggling to get out of a pond. Cell phones are used to call for help in all kinds of emergencies, such as reporting an injury or accident, or calling for a ride when you're left stranded. But one summer day in Oklahoma, some middle school boys used a cell phone for a unique emergency—to save a horse, *of course*. They called for help when they found a horse struggling to get out of a quarry pond where they were planning to fish. Rescue workers came and got the tired animal out of the pond, and the boys became local heroes.

## WHAT'S YOUR CELL SAVVY?

**USE WHAT YOU KNOW TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON THE BACK PAGE.**

1. You receive a picture message from a classmate that makes you uncomfortable. You...
  - A send back a text telling her to get lost.
  - B show your parent when you get home.
  - C forward it to a friend and ask what he or she thinks.
2. Your friends are sending rumors through texts about some new kids in school. It's your turn to send the next one. You...
  - A don't send the text, but tell your friends that you did.
  - B don't send the text because you don't want it traced back to you.
  - C send the text since everyone else is doing it.
3. Your friends are taking pictures in the locker room after soccer practice. There's one picture you're thinking of sending to this kid you like. You...
  - A send it with note asking to meet after school.
  - B send it without a note to see if you get a response.
  - C stop and hit delete because you realize the message could be forwarded to others who you really don't want to see the picture.
4. Your friend has been getting picked on at school and is really upset about a voice mail he got from someone in your class. You tell him to...
  - A save it and tell his parent or a teacher.
  - B send back a message that is nastier.
  - C delete it and get over it.
5. You receive a text message from someone you don't know who wants to meet you at the mall. You...
  - A respond to find out more.
  - B don't respond; show the message to a parent or another trusted adult.
  - C go meet the person, who sounds cool.
6. You get a text message about a discount on a new game you really want. All you have to do is text back a credit card number and the game will be yours. You...
  - A send the info because you really want the game.
  - B forward the message to three of your friends.
  - C delete the message because it's SPAM.

# DECODE IT

People often use abbreviations in text and email messages to save time and space. Can you figure out these abbreviations? GL!

**B4N**

**CUL8R**

**G2G**

**LOL**

**GR8**

**EOM**

**ROTFL**

**TTYL**

**WRUD**

**WDYT**

**BTW**

**J/K**



Translation: Thanks. You are a star./No problem.

## SIGN UP FOR SAFETY: A FAMILY CONTRACT



What do you think would happen if you told your parents or guardians about an inappropriate text, voice, or email message you received? Do you think they'd freak out and take away your phone? Talk to your parents or guardians about it! Suggest that you both sign a contract so you can go to them about messages that you send or receive and you can decide what will happen together. Use the contract that your teacher gives you. Read it and fill it in with your parents/guardians. After you both sign it, put it somewhere safe—maybe on a bulletin board or the 'fridge to remind everybody. Then, remember to speak up and be safe if you get an inappropriate message.



What does McGruff have to say about cyber safety? Check out [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) for advice, videos, and games about cyberbullying, online safety, and more.

What are you doing?: What do you think?: By the way; Just kidding  
Great; End of message; Rolling on the floor laughing; Talk to you later;  
Good luck; Bye for now; See you later; Got to go; Laughing out loud;

Decode It

1. b. 2. b. 3. c. 4. a. 5. b. 6. c

What's Your Cell Savvy?

Answers:

CTIA The Wireless Foundation  
[www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org)

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