

# Message Misadventures

**Purpose:** Identify what a scam can look like and how to respond.

Below is a chat conversation between you and a scammer on a video game platform.

**Circle what's suspicious** about the conversation and the profile.

The image shows a chat window on a video game platform. The chat history is as follows:

- [coolgurl23] nice move!
- [You] thanks! who are you?
- [coolgurl23] i'm Mo. Sarah's friend.
- [You] oh cool. have we met? i don't remember u.
- [coolgurl23] yeah a while ago. i think we live near each other.
- [coolgurl23] i know a way to skip ahead to a harder level.
- [You] how??
- [coolgurl23] what's your username and password so i can show you?
- [You] ummmm

Below the chat is a drawing of two people, a boy and a girl, standing and talking. On the right, a 'PROFILE PAGE' for 'coolgurl23' is shown. The profile page includes:

- Name: coolgurl23
- Personal Info: None
- Location: 100 miles away
- Mutual Friends: 0
- Account Created: 2 days ago

At the top of the chat window, there is a diamond icon and a star icon. At the bottom of the chat window, there are icons for a speech bubble, a star, a lightning bolt, and a red circle.

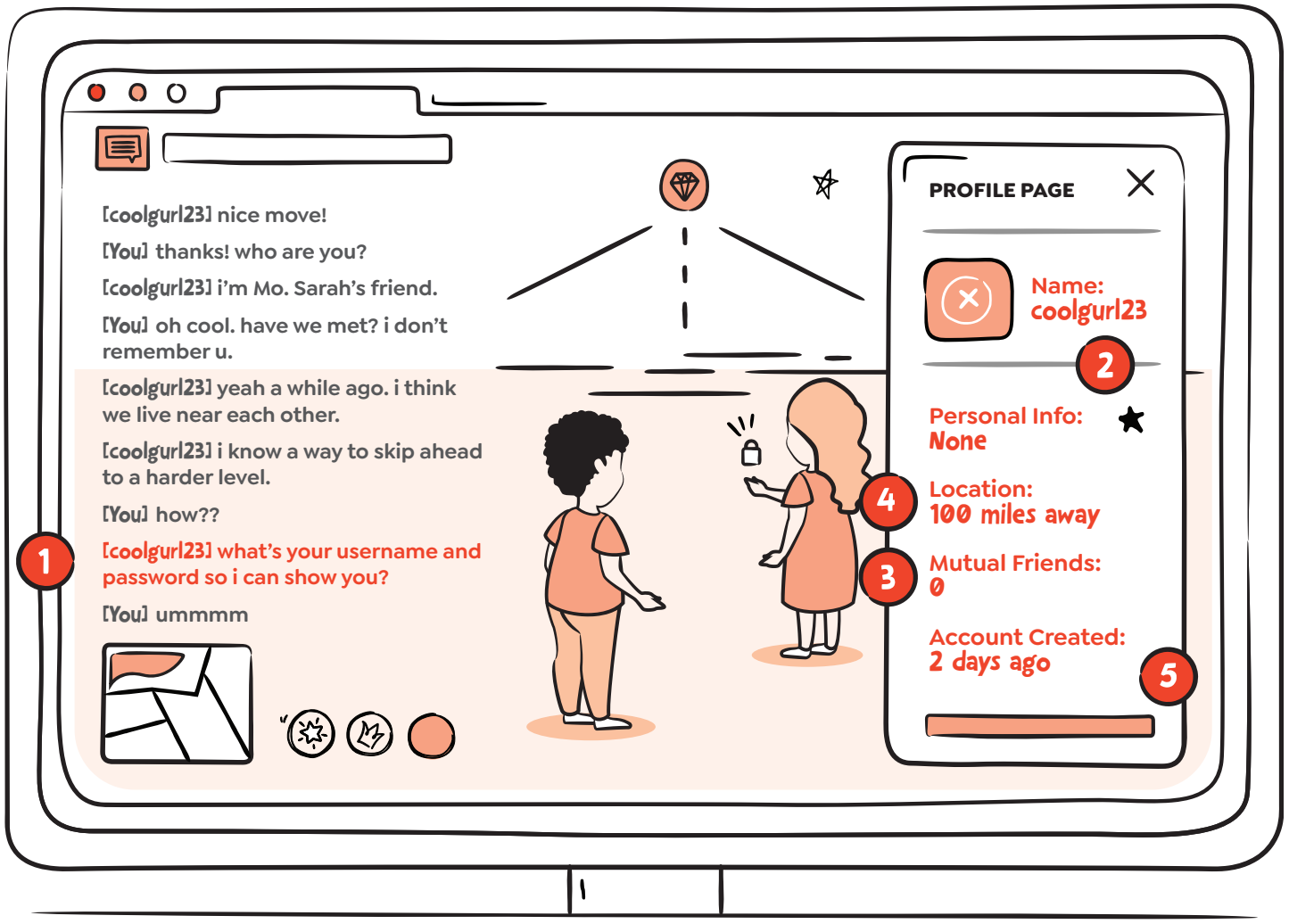
## Is this person a scammer? Look for these signs:

1. Are they trying to get personal information from you?
2. Is this person a friend or someone you know in real life? Do you share mutual friends with them?
3. Does their profile include some information about their identity?
4. Does what they tell you match up with the information in their profile?
5. Has the account been active for very long?

**Discussion:** Pair up with a classmate and discuss what you would do if you received these messages from coolgurl23.

# Answers:

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### Answers:

1. The user asks you personal information (your username and password).
2. The user's profile has no photo or identifying information to help you know if they are telling the truth about who they are.
3. You have zero mutual friends with this user even though they said you both knew someone named "Sarah."
4. The user's location says they live 100 miles away. They are probably not telling the truth about living close to you.
5. The user's account was created two days ago. This is a sign that it is a scammer.