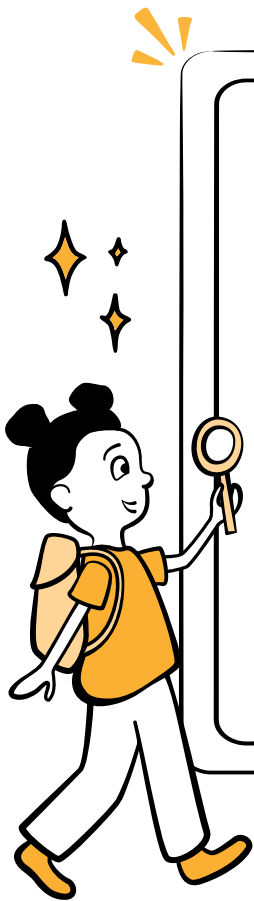


Password 20 Questions

Purpose: Understand how to build a strong password that people cannot easily guess.

It's important to always use a strong password that no one else can guess. For this activity, you will make up a password and see if it is strong enough that no one else can guess it.



TIPS FOR CREATING A STRONG PASSWORD

- ✓ Strong passwords are based on a phrase or sentence that's easy for you to remember and hard for someone else to guess—like the title of your favorite song or the first letters of words in a sentence about something you did.

Example: "I went to Western Elementary School for grade 3" could be used to build a password like lw2WE\$4g3
- ✓ Use at least eight characters. The longer the better (as long as you can remember it!).
- ✓ Use a combination of letters (uppercase and lowercase), numbers and symbols.
- ✓ Use numbers and symbols in place of letters to make your password harder for others to guess.

Example: 3 for E, ! for l, 0 for O, @ for a, % or * for a space, \$ for S, etc.
- ✓ Don't use personal information (name, address, email, phone number, birth dates, a pet's name, etc.) in your password.
- ✓ Don't use a password that's easy to guess, like your nickname, the name of your school, your favorite sports team, a string of numbers (like 123456) and so on. And definitely don't use the word "password"!

Now, you try!

- 1. Make up a password using the tips above.** Write down your made-up password so that no one else can see it. (Make sure that the password you use for this game is NOT one that you use in real life.)
- 2. Find a partner.**
- 3. Take turns asking questions:** The goal of the game is to guess your partner's password. Take turns asking yes-or-no questions to narrow down the possibilities. The answerer can only respond with "yes," "no" or "I don't know" to the questions asked. If you need help thinking of what to ask, use the questions on the next page.
- 4. Make a guess:** After you've each asked 20 questions, try to guess each other's passwords.
- 5. Is your password strong or weak?** If your partner cannot guess your password, then you have a strong password. Way to go! If your partner guesses your password correctly, then you have a weak password. Try to make it stronger using the tips above.

If you need help thinking of what you can ask, here are some examples:

- Does your password include your name?
- Does your password include your favorite animal?
- Is there a character from your favorite TV show or movie in your password?
- Is your password related to a sport or a game?
- Does your password include a hobby or activity you like?
- Does your password include the name of a place, like a city or country?
- Does your password include the name of a food?
- Does your password include your favorite color?
- Does your password include your favorite singer?
- Does your password include what you want to be when you grow up?
- Does your password have a number in it?
- Does your password have any symbols like !, @, \$ or &?
- Does your password start with a vowel (A, E, I, O, U)?

