Internet Safety Questions

In this document, I have compiled a list of answers and links for more information to commonly asked questions about using the Internet Safely.

What are cookies? Cookies are messages that a web server(the website)passes to your browser (Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc.). Cookies help to give website designers information so they can design the site to suit you and to sell items to you. You can disable cookies but if you want to save your sign in info you will need to enable cookies.
More info: What are cookies? Notice under **Security**:
Accepting a cookie does not give a server access to your computer or any of your personal information (except for any information that you may have purposely given, as with online shopping). Also, it is not possible to execute code from a cookie, and not possible to use a cookie to deliver a virus.

You can disable cookies at individual websites or in your browser. See below:

Managing Cookies in Chrome

There are really no bad or good cookies. It all depends on how much of your personal preferences (your website searches, your shopping history) you want to share. Cookies will not crash your computer, they are not viruses.

What is an insecure website?
Not secure warning Notice this: *The warning refers to the lack of security for the connection to that page. It's alerting you that information sent and received with that page is unprotected and it could potentially be stolen, read, or modified by attackers, hackers, and entities with access to internet infrastructure, such as Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and governments.*

If you are on a website that has a "Not Secure warning" what should you do?
The "Not Secure" warning does not indicate that your computer or the site you are visiting is affected by malware. It only serves to alert you that you do not have a secure connection with that page. Note that some websites may only support secure HTTPS connections on some pages, but not all; in these cases you may see the "Not Secure" warning on only the insecure pages.
The reason you are seeing the "Not Secure" warning is because the web page or website you are visiting is not providing a secure connection. When your Chrome

browser connects to a website it can either use the HTTP (insecure) or HTTPS (secure).

Any page providing an HTTP connection will cause the "Not Secure" warning. You should avoid conducting any sensitive transactions on these pages—such as logging in, providing personal information, or payment information—browsing insecure sites could put you at risk if you are viewing information that is dangerous or not condoned in your country.

In other words, It would be safe to surf on these websites as long as you don't share any personal or payment information. And if you aren't worried about others viewing your browsing history (in some countries it is illegal to visit certain sites.)

Any website that is deemed "not secure" will have an HTTP in the URL (the website address.) A Secure website will have HTTPS to signify that the website has gotten a Security certificate.

Normal vs. Fishy URLs: HTTP is not secure (fishy) HTTPS is secure.

Credible websites vs not credible(false) sites is another question. See my lesson on Media Literacy here:5/4 Media Literacy For research, I would look for trusted news outlets like: articles on Newsela, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Oregonian, and sites with .edu(an institution of higher learning) or .gov(a government agency) in the URL.

How to Google Safely: See **Be Alert** in the pdf here: Be Internet Awesome It is safe to click on sites that have https in the url.

Also, making your search queries as specific as possible is helpful to rule out unsafe(not appropriate for children) or not useful sites. For instance, instead of searching: "children at home", search: "distance learning for students." Instead of "famous women in the news" search "women scientists of the twenty- first century."

To **search safely for images online** you could use this website:Safe Search Kids

Sources: Indiana University   Google Chrome Help Digicert.com Common Sense Media Be Internet Awesome Safe Search Kids