# Public Wi-Fi: The Hidden Dangers of Free Internet

A Simple Guide to Staying Safe on Public Networks

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# What Is Public Wi-Fi?

**Your Free Connection... and Risk**

- Public Wi-Fi is found in places like cafes, airports, and hotels.

- It's free and convenient - but often not secure.

- Anyone nearby can connect…even hackers.

- **Simple Analogy:** It's like shouting your private conversation in a crowded room - anyone can hear it.

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# Why It Can Be Dangerous

## Looks Safe, Feels Safe… Isn't Always Safe

- These networks usually don't encrypt your data.
- Hackers can sit on the same network and spy on your activity.
- Some set up fake hotspots with names like "Free Airport Wi-Fi."
- **Simple Analogy:** Just because a door is open doesn't mean you should walk in - it could be a trap.

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# Common Attacks on Public Networks

## The Tools Hackers Use

- Man-in-the-Middle (MitM): They intercept data between you and a website.
- Evil Twin: Fake Wi-Fi spots designed to steal info.
- Packet Sniffing: Monitoring everything you send over the connection.
- **Simple Analogy:** Like someone reading your mail before it gets to the post office.

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# Safe Browsing Tips

## How to Protect Yourself

- Never access banking or sensitive accounts over public Wi-Fi.

- Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to encrypt your connection.

- Only visit websites with "HTTPS" in the address.

- Turn off file sharing and automatic connection to open networks.

- **Simple Analogy:** Use a privacy screen while using your phone in public - only you should see what's on it.

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# What to Avoid

### Don't Take the Bait

- Don't install software or enter login details unless you're sure it's a secure site.
- Don't assume just because a network has a password that it's safe.
- Avoid typing personal info unless absolutely necessary.
- **Simple Analogy:** It's like using a public restroom - best to be cautious about what you do there.

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# Staying Protected Everywhere

## Be Security-Smart, Not Paranoid

- Use your phone's hotspot when in doubt.

- Keep your software and antivirus tools updated.

- Educate others - especially kids or older adults - about the risks.

- If you travel often, invest in a VPN subscription.