

Building Strong Passwords

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to evaluate password strength and create a strong, memorable password using a reliable method.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper
- pencil
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Write down 5 example passwords of varying strength (do NOT use your real passwords) — include at least one weak one (like '123456' or 'password') and rate each on a scale of 1-5 for strength before doing research.
2. Learn/review 4 rules of strong passwords: length (12+ characters), mix of upper/lowercase, numbers, and symbols, and avoiding personal info (birthdays, names).
3. Re-evaluate your 5 example passwords against the 4 rules and correct your original 1-5 ratings if needed.
4. Using the 'passphrase method,' create one new strong example password by combining 3-4 random unrelated words with a number and symbol (e.g., 'Purple7Bicycle!Cloud') — write it on an index card as a practice example (not a real account password).
5. Explain to a family member why your passphrase example is strong, pointing to each of the 4 rules it follows.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the 4 key rules of a strong password that you learned?

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2. Which of your 5 example passwords was the weakest, and which rule(s) did it break?

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3. Write your example strong passphrase here and explain why it follows the 4 rules.
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4. **Why is using the same password for multiple accounts risky, even if the password itself is strong?**
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