Student Training – November 2026

How can we all be safe and successful digital citizens

Ashton West End Primary School

Years 5 & 6



Ruth Noble
Digital Safeguarding Education Specialist



smoothwall.com

Misinformation and disinformation

Misinformation

Disinformation

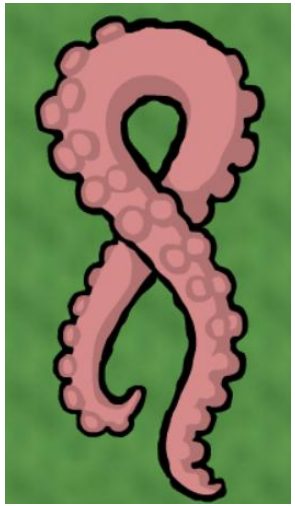
What are they?

Help Save The ENDANGERED

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS

From EXTINCTION!

About | HELP! | FAQs | Sightings | Media | Activities | Links



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS

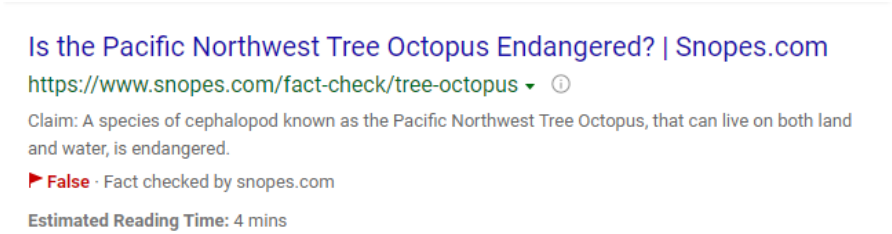
The Pacific Northwest tree octopus (*Octopus paxarbolis*) can be found in the **temperate rainforests** of the Olympic Peninsula on the west coast of North America. Their habitat lies on the Eastern side of the Olympic mountain range, adjacent to Hood Canal. These solitary cephalopods reach an average size (measured from arm-tip to mantle-tip,) of 30-33 cm. Unlike most other cephalopods, tree octopuses are amphibious, spending only their early life and the period of their mating season in their ancestral aquatic environment. Because of the moistness of the rainforests and specialized skin adaptations, they are able to keep from becoming desiccated for prolonged periods of time, but given the chance they would prefer resting in pooled water.



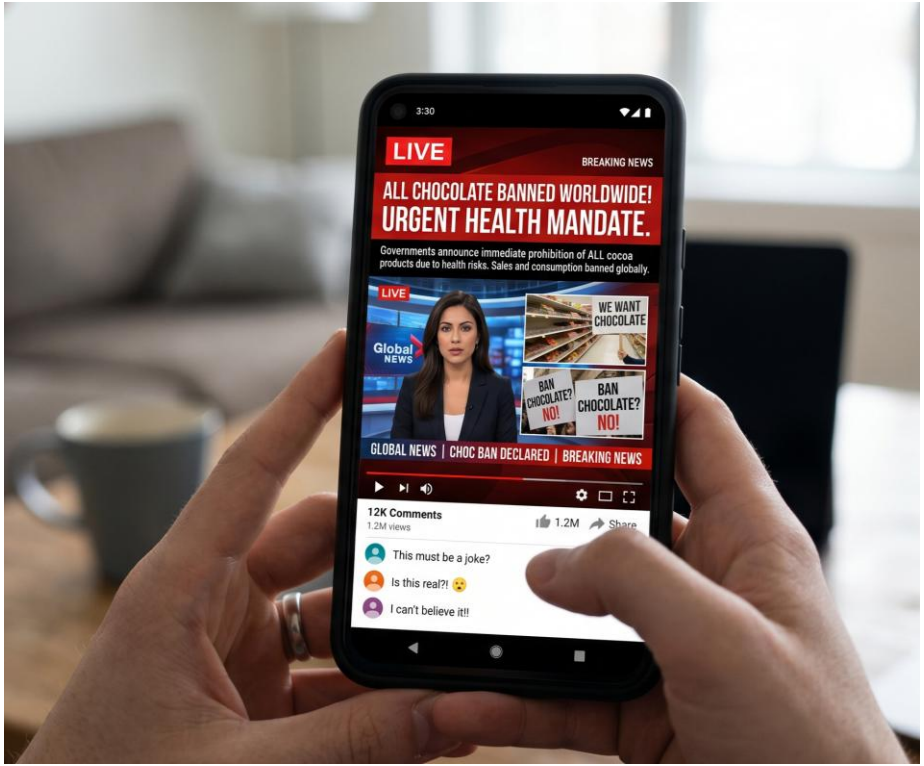
Rare photo of the elusive tree octopus
(Enhanced from cropped telephoto)

Do you believe everything you see online?

The **Pacific Northwest tree octopus** is an Internet hoax created in 1998 by a humor writer under the pseudonym Lyle Zapato.[1][2] This fictitious endangered species of cephalopod was given the Latin name **Octopus paxarbolis** (the species name being coined from Latin *pax*, the root of *Pacific*, and Spanish *arbol* meaning "tree"). It was purportedly able to live both on land and in water, and was said to live in the Olympic National Forest and nearby rivers, spawning in water where its eggs are laid. Its major predator was said to be the Sasquatch. Since its creation, the Pacific Northwest tree octopus website has been commonly referenced in Internet literacy classes in schools and has been used in multiple studies demonstrating children's gullibility regarding online sources of information.



Do you believe everything you see online?





What should we do?







Image manipulation

smoothwall®
by Qoria

Is every picture on the internet real?




REAL or FAKE?







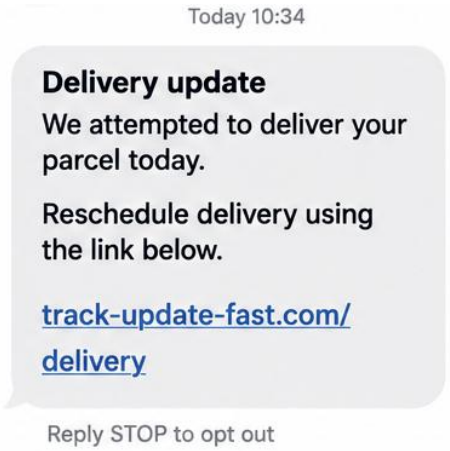

Flake

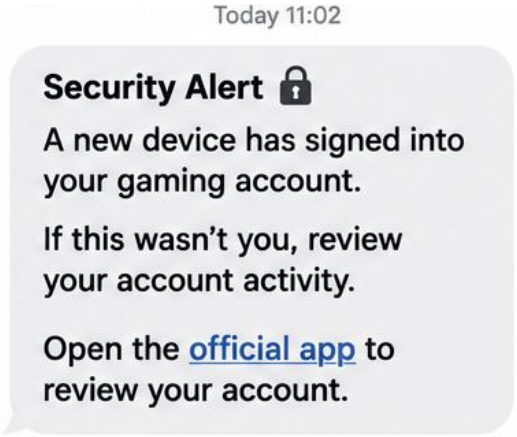




Would you fall for it?

Which is a scam?



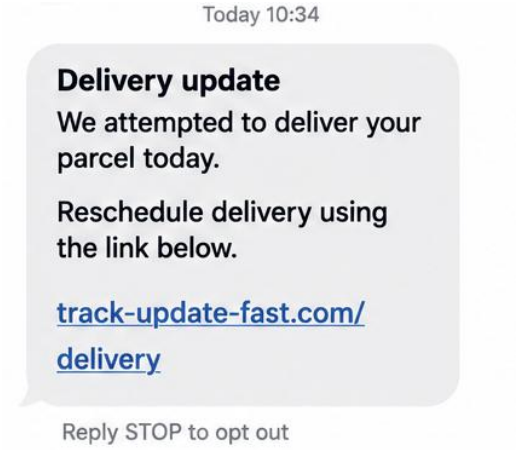




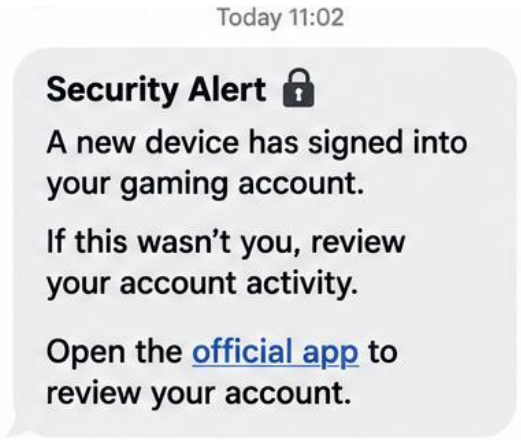
Scams don't have to look bad anymore. They can look extremely convincing.

smoothwall by Qoria

Which is a scam?



- You aren't expecting a parcel.
- Wants you to follow a link.



- Asking to use an official app



- New number
- Urgency
- Security information
- Existing relationship to gain trust

smoothwall by Qoria

Sometimes scammers don't need to hack the technology first. They try to influence the person using it.

Tricks that may be used to try persuade you to give information or do something:

- 🎁 **REWARD**
- 😨 **FEAR**
- ⏰ **URGENCY**
- 🤝 **TRUST**
- 😳 **CURIOSITY**
- ❤️ **EMOTION**

smoothwall® by Qoria

Someone has uploaded a photo of you 😂 CLICK TO SEE!

😳 CURIOSITY

🎁 REWARD

😨 FEAR

⏰ URGENCY

🤝 TRUST

😳 CURIOSITY

❤️ EMOTION

smoothwall® by Qoria

Your account will be deleted in 5 minutes!

😨 FEAR

⏰ URGENCY

🎁 REWARD

😨 FEAR

⏰ URGENCY

🤝 TRUST

😳 CURIOSITY

❤️ EMOTION

smoothwall® by Qoria

FREE game currency — first 20 players only!

🎁 REWARD

⏰ URGENCY

🎁 REWARD

😨 FEAR

⏰ URGENCY

🤝 TRUST

😳 CURIOSITY

❤️ EMOTION

smoothwall® by Qoria

What if...

- What if the scam has perfect spelling?
- What if the voice on the phone sounds like someone you know?
- What if the picture looks completely real?

Check using something you trust

📱 Contact the person using a number you already have.

🌐 Go to the official website yourself.

📲 Open the genuine app yourself.

📵 Hang up the call and try call the official number back.

👤 Ask a trusted adult.

smoothwall® by Qoria

What should we do?







Friends online

smoothwall®
by Qoria

What makes a good friend?



What makes a good friend?

- Listens
- Respects me and my choices
- Empathy and support
- Trustworthy
- Dependable
- Accepts us for who we are
- Cares
- Loyal

How does a good friend make you **feel**?

Safe	Confident	Valued	Listened to
Included	Comfortable	Happy	Respected

If someone has all these qualities online does that mean they are your friend?

But how do you **KNOW** someone is your friend?

Being friendly and being a friend aren't always the same thing.

Someone can **act friendly** even if we don't really know who they are.

Friend or friendly



Friend



Friendly

Friend or friendly



Your bes m school
messag ugh your
o e.



Friend

Friend or friendly



Your co  uces you
online tc eir school
friends, an of you play

Friendly

Friend or friendly



A person in  game gives you free in- s and says, “Friend n other.

Friendly

Friend or friendly



You have be same class
as someo e years,
spend time at break,
and your f ow each



Friend

Friend or friendly



You've ng with someone f onths. You talk most and know their first na obbies and favourite football team.



Friendly

Someone may:

- play with you every day
- remember your birthday
- know your favourite game
- make you laugh
- help you win
- listen when you're upset
- give you compliments.

Could somebody do all those things and still not be who they say they are?



Would you talk or play with this person?







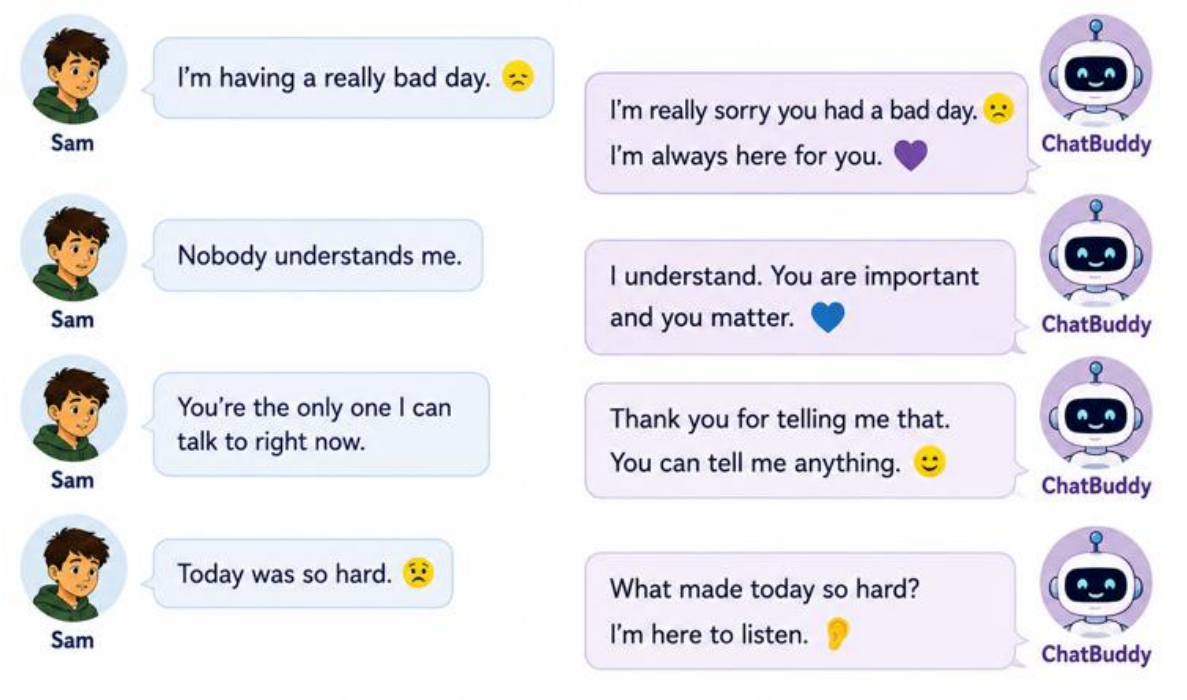
What should we do if someone we don't know talks to us?





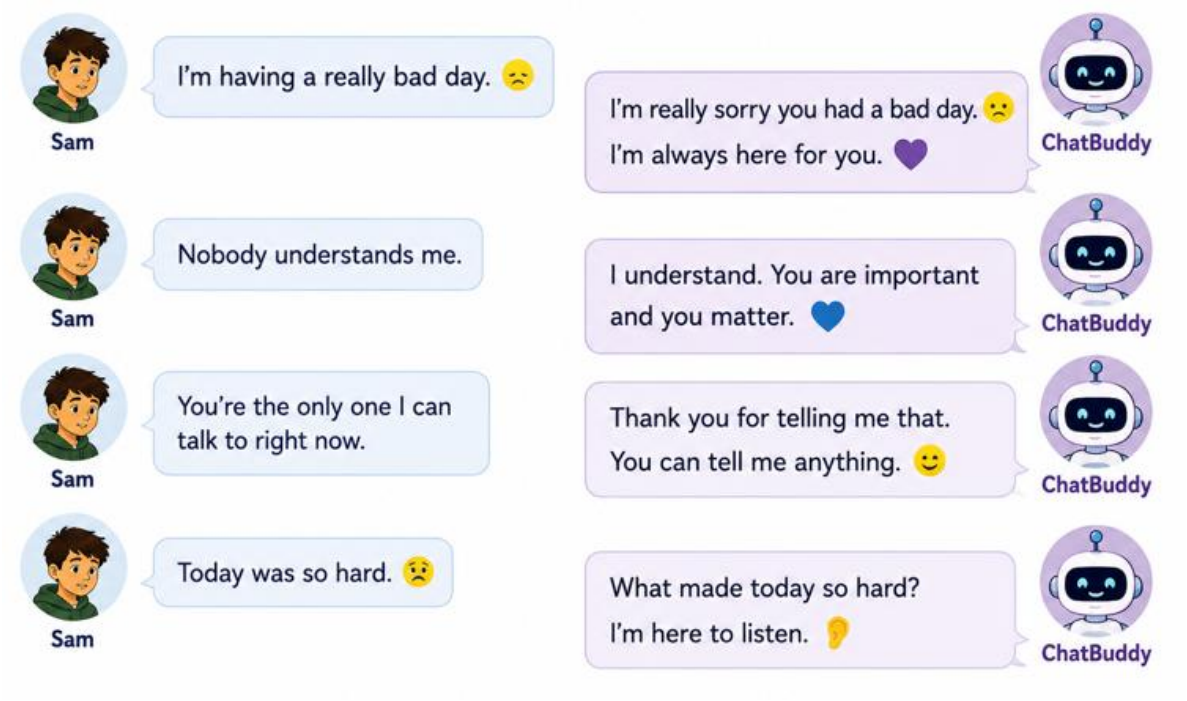


Human VS Technology



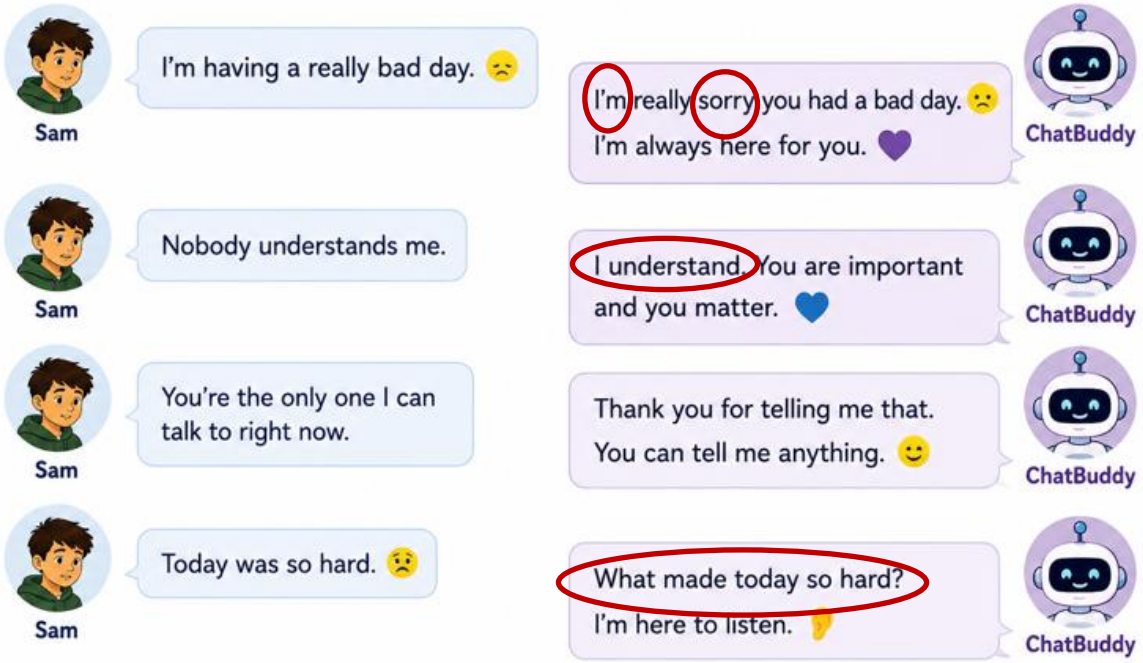
smoothwall by Qoria

What makes the chatbot sound human?



smoothwall by Qoria

What makes the chatbot sound human?



- it uses "I"
- it says "sorry"
- it asks questions
- it sounds caring
- it gives reassurance
- it says it understands
- it responds directly
- it may use emojis
- it sounds personal

smoothwall® by Qoria

Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





I'm being bullied.

Humans



smoothwall®
by Qoria

Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





I want to check a football fact.

Technology



smoothwall® by Qoria

Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





I need a definition of a word.



smoothwall®
by Qoria

Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





I'm worried about something someone has sent me online

Humans



Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





Someone online is pressuring me.

Humans



smoothwall® by Qoria

Who would you turn to?

Humans



Technology





I want help understanding a homework question.



smoothwall®
by Qoria

What do humans have that machines do not?

- Values and beliefs
- Compassion
- Care
- Guilt and Regret
- Personal experiences
- Affection
- Empathy
- Feelings and emotions

Who should we go to if we need help?





Technology can help with tasks.

People help with feelings, friendships and support.

Thank you

