

TECH FOR EVERYONE

Grades 6–8

Digital Literacy

LINCS Vocabulary Cards



One card for every vocabulary word in *Digital Literacy: Getting Confident with Technology*. Write a reminding word, tell a LINCing story, draw the picture, and self-test until the word is yours.

Name: _____

techforeveryone.app



How LINC'S Works

LINC'S is a vocabulary strategy from the University of Kansas. It locks a new word into memory by linking the **sound** of the word to its **meaning** through a familiar word, a tiny story, and a picture. Each card in this book walks you through the five steps for one word.

- 1 List the parts.** The term and its definition are printed on the card. Read both out loud.
- 2 Identify a reminding word.** A familiar word that *sounds like* part of the term. Write it on the card.
- 3 Note a LINCing story.** One or two sentences that connect the reminding word to what the term means.
- 4 Create a LINCing picture.** Sketch the story. Stick figures are fine. The picture is for you, not for a grade.
- 5 Self-test.** Cover the definition and go term → reminding word → story → picture → meaning. Then flip it and go from the definition back to the term. Tick the boxes when you can do both.

A finished card, for example

device A piece of electronic equipment you use to compute, communicate, or go online — like a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.

Reminding word: vise ("device" ends like "vise," the shop-class clamp)

LINCing story: In shop class, a vise is a trusty tool you grab to get a job done — and a device is any electronic tool you grab to compute, message, or go online.

Picture: A workbench vise gently gripping a smartphone next to a row of tools.

Tips

The best reminding words are ones you already know well. A silly story is easier to remember than a sensible one. Draw before you feel ready; the drawing makes the story stick. Model cards for every word are at the back, but make your own first.

CHAPTER 1

Meet Your Devices



This chapter introduces 7 vocabulary terms about devices, their parts, and how you get into them.

Words in this chapter:

device

hardware

cloud storage

accessibility

touchscreen

storage

login

LINC'S

device

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

A piece of electronic equipment you use to compute, communicate, or go online — like a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

touchscreen

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

A screen you control by touching it with your fingers — tapping, swiping, and pinching.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

hardware

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

The physical parts of a device you can see and touch, like the screen, keyboard, and ports.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

storage

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

Where a device keeps your files — on the device itself, or online in the cloud.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

cloud storage

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

Files kept on the internet — like iCloud, Google Drive, or OneDrive — so you can reach them from any device and they're backed up.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

login

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

Proving who you are to a device, using a password, a PIN, or biometrics like a fingerprint or face scan.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

accessibility

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

Settings that customize a device — larger text, read-aloud, captions, or high contrast — to fit different needs and make it usable for everyone.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

My own word: _____

CHAPTER 1

1 Definition

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

CHAPTER 2

Finding Your Way Around a Device



This chapter introduces 4 vocabulary terms about operating systems, windows, and keeping your work organized.

Words in this chapter:

operating system (OS)

window

file

folder

LINC'S

operating system (OS)

CHAPTER 2

1 Definition

The main software that runs a device — managing the screen, apps, files, and settings. Examples: Windows, macOS, iPadOS, Android, ChromeOS.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

window

CHAPTER 2

1 Definition

A frame on screen holding an open program; you can have several open and switch between them.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

file

CHAPTER 2

1 Definition

A single saved item — a document, photo, song, or video. Its type is shown by the extension, like .docx or .jpg.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

folder

CHAPTER 2

1 Definition

A container that holds files, used to keep your work organized — like a labeled drawer.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

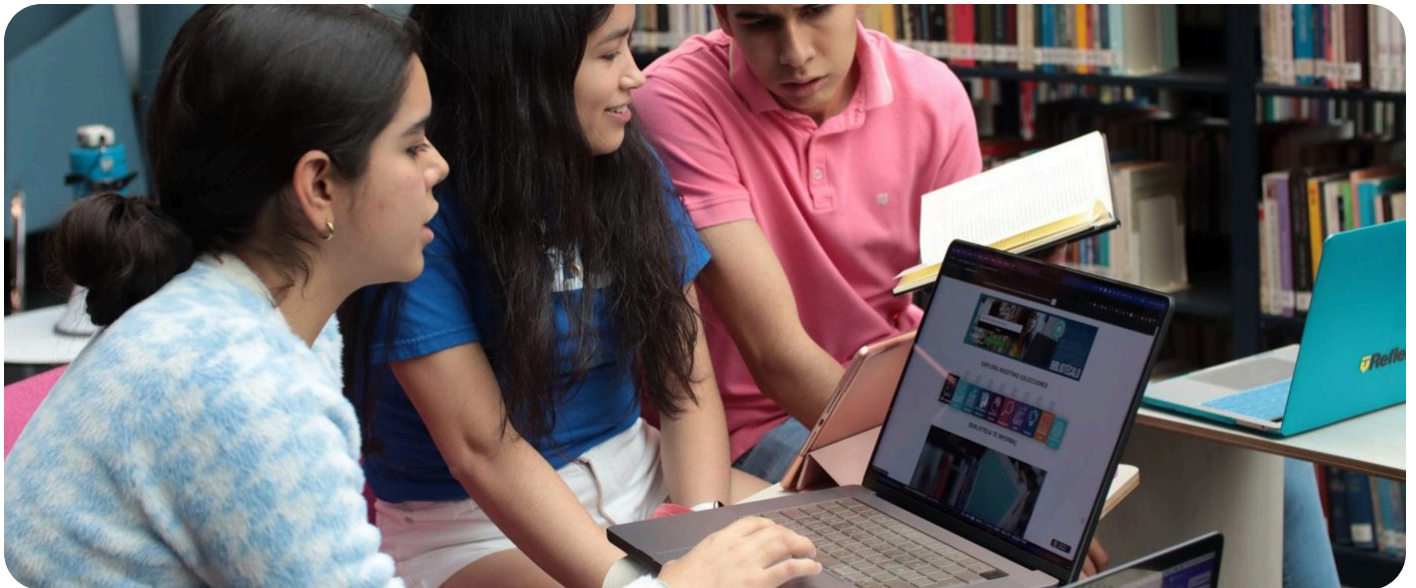
DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

CHAPTER 3

Exploring the Internet



This chapter introduces 5 vocabulary terms about getting online and reading web addresses.

Words in this chapter:

browser

cellular data

top-level domain

Wi-Fi

URL

LINC'S

browser

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

An app used to visit websites — like Chrome, Safari, Edge, or Firefox.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

Wi-Fi

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

A wireless internet connection from a nearby router — usually free, at home or school.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

cellular data

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

Internet over the cell network (4G/5G) — works almost anywhere but is usually limited by a monthly plan.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

URL

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

The address of a web page, typed in the address bar — like <https://www.example.org>.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

top-level domain

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

The ending of a web address (.com, .org, .edu, .gov) that hints at who runs the site.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

My own word: _____

CHAPTER 3

1 Definition

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

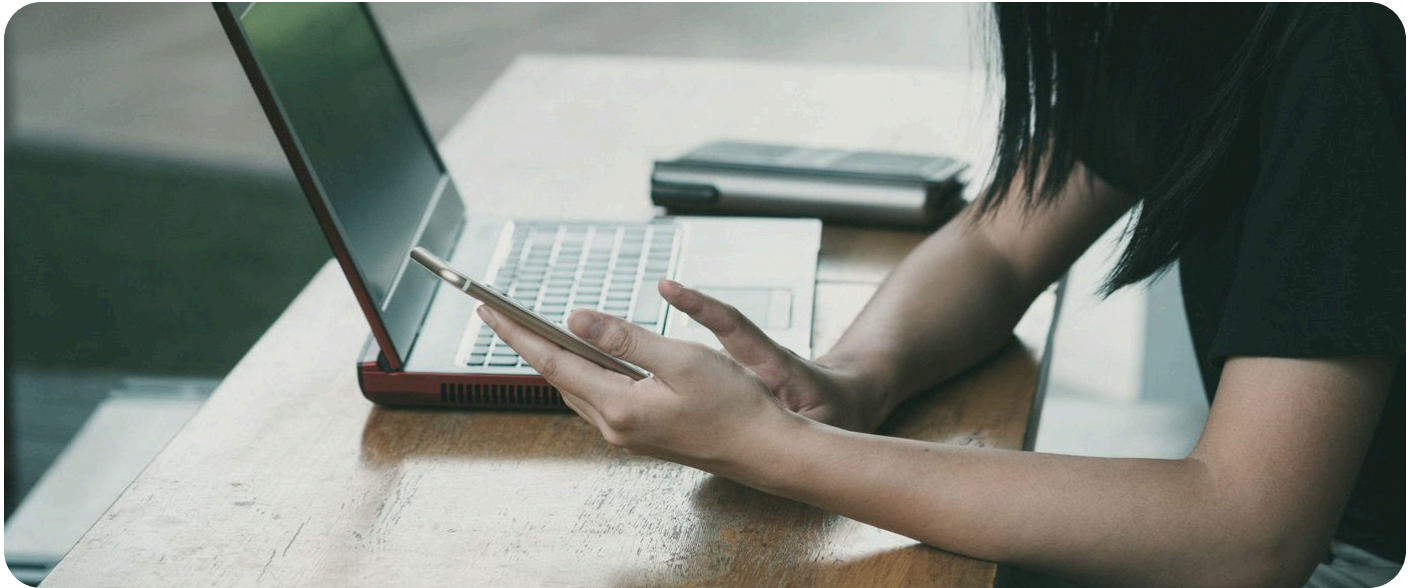
DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

CHAPTER 4

Communicating and Creating



This chapter introduces 4 vocabulary terms about the communication and creation tools school and work run on.

Words in this chapter:

email

video call

spreadsheet

presentation software

LINC'S

email

CHAPTER 4

1 Definition

Electronic mail — the standard way to send written messages and documents for school, work, and organizations.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

video call

CHAPTER 4

1 Definition

A live video-and-audio conversation over the internet, using apps like Zoom, Google Meet, or FaceTime — for classes, meetings, and doctor visits (telehealth).

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

spreadsheet

CHAPTER 4

1 Definition

A grid of cells (rows and columns) for organizing numbers and doing calculations — like Excel or Google Sheets.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

presentation software

CHAPTER 4

1 Definition

Tools like PowerPoint and Google Slides for making slideshows with text, images, and media.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

CHAPTER 5

Staying Safe and Smart Online



This chapter introduces 6 vocabulary terms about protecting your accounts, spotting scams, and managing your reputation.

Words in this chapter:

cybersecurity

password manager

passkey

multi-factor authentication (MFA)

phishing

digital footprint

LINC'S

cybersecurity

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

Protecting your devices, accounts, and personal information from digital threats like hackers, scams, and viruses.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

password manager

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

A secure app that creates and stores strong, unique passwords, so you only remember one master password.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

passkey

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

A modern way to sign in with your fingerprint or face instead of a password, so there's nothing for a thief to steal.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

multi-factor authentication (MFA)

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

A security method needing a second proof — like a code from your phone — so a stolen password alone can't get in.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)

3 LINCing story

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

phishing

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

A scam where someone pretends to be a trusted person or company to trick you into giving up passwords, money, or personal information.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

LINC'S

digital footprint

CHAPTER 5

1 Definition

The trail of data you leave online — your posts, searches, and activity — much of it permanent and visible to others, including future schools and employers.

2 Reminding word (sounds like part of the term)**3 LINCing story**

4 LINCing picture

DRAW

☐ Term → meaning ☐ Meaning → term

Self-tested on: _____

My Self-Test Log

Tick a box each time you can travel the whole chain in both directions without looking. Three ticks on three different days means the word is yours.

Term	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Notes
device ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
touchscreen ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
hardware ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
storage ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
cloud storage ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
login ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
accessibility ch. 1	☐	☐	☐	
operating system (OS) ch. 2	☐	☐	☐	
window ch. 2	☐	☐	☐	
file ch. 2	☐	☐	☐	
folder ch. 2	☐	☐	☐	
browser ch. 3	☐	☐	☐	
Wi-Fi ch. 3	☐	☐	☐	

Term	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Notes
cellular data ch. 3	☐	☐	☐	
URL ch. 3	☐	☐	☐	
top-level domain ch. 3	☐	☐	☐	
email ch. 4	☐	☐	☐	
video call ch. 4	☐	☐	☐	
spreadsheet ch. 4	☐	☐	☐	
presentation software ch. 4	☐	☐	☐	
cybersecurity ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	
password manager ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	
passkey ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	
multi-factor authentication (MFA) ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	
phishing ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	
digital footprint ch. 5	☐	☐	☐	



Model Cards (Teacher Key)

Ready-made reminding words, stories and picture ideas for every term, from the LINC'S resource sheet. Use them to model the strategy or to help a student who is stuck; a student's own card is always better than a copied one.

Chapter 1: Meet Your Devices

device A piece of electronic equipment you use to compute, communicate, or go online — like a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.

Reminding word: vise ("device" ends like "vise," the shop-class clamp)

LINCing story: In shop class, a vise is a trusty tool you grab to get a job done — and a device is any electronic tool you grab to compute, message, or go online.

Picture: A workbench vise gently gripping a smartphone next to a row of tools.

touchscreen A screen you control by touching it with your fingers — tapping, swiping, and pinching.

Reminding word: screen door ("touchscreen" splits into "touch" and "screen")

LINCing story: Grandma's screen door opens with just a touch of your fingers — no handle needed — just as a touchscreen is controlled entirely by tapping, swiping, and pinching with your fingertips.

Picture: A finger tapping a giant glowing screen, with little ripples spreading out from the fingertip.

hardware The physical parts of a device you can see and touch, like the screen, keyboard, and ports.

Reminding word: hardware store ("hardware" as in the store)

LINCing story: At the hardware store, everything on the shelves is physical — you can pick up every hammer and hinge; a device's hardware is the same: the touchable parts, like the screen, keyboard, and ports.

Picture: Store shelves stocked with keyboards, monitors, mice, and cables instead of hammers and nails.

storage Where a device keeps your files — on the device itself, or online in the cloud.

Reminding word: storage unit ("storage" as in a rental storage unit)

LINCing story: A storage unit keeps your boxes safe until you come back for them — a device's storage does the same for your files, keeping them on the device or online until you need them.

Picture: A garage-style storage unit with its door rolled up, full of boxes labeled "photos," "homework," and "music."

cloud storage Files kept on the internet — like iCloud, Google Drive, or OneDrive — so you can reach them from any device and they're backed up.

Reminding word: rain cloud ("cloud" as in the sky)

LINCing story: A rain cloud follows you and can rain down anywhere you stand — files kept online float above every device you own, ready to rain down onto your phone, tablet, or laptop, safely backed up.

Picture: A friendly cloud raining little documents and photos onto a phone, a tablet, and a laptop below.

login Proving who you are to a device, using a password, a PIN, or biometrics like a fingerprint or face scan.

Reminding word: log inn ("login" sounds like a "log inn")

LINCing story: At the cozy log inn, the innkeeper hands you a room key only after you prove who you are — a device works the same way, opening up only after your password, PIN, or fingerprint proves it's really you.

Picture: A log-cabin inn where the keeper checks a guest's ID card before handing over a key.

accessibility Settings that customize a device — larger text, read-aloud, captions, or high contrast — to fit different needs and make it usable for everyone.

Reminding word: access ramp ("accessibility" starts like "access")

LINCing story: The access ramp lets every single person get into the building, not just some — accessibility settings like big text, read-aloud, and captions open up a device so everyone can use it.

Picture: A ramp leading up into a giant smartphone, with signs along it reading "big text," "captions," and "read aloud."

Chapter 2: Finding Your Way Around a Device

operating system (OS) The main software that runs a device — managing the screen, apps, files, and settings. Examples: Windows, macOS, iPadOS, Android, ChromeOS.

Reminding word: operator ("operating" sounds like "operator")

LINCing story: The old-time switchboard operator ran the whole building's calls, connecting everyone to the right line — the operating system is the operator inside your device, running the screen, apps, files, and settings.

Picture: An operator at a switchboard plugging cables into sockets labeled "apps," "files," and "settings."

window A frame on screen holding an open program; you can have several open and switch between them.

Reminding word: house window ("window" as in the windows of a house)

LINCing story: Each window of the house shows a different room inside — and on a computer, each program opens in its own on-screen window, so you can peek into several and switch between them.

Picture: A house whose windows show an essay in one, a web page in another, and email in a third.

file A single saved item — a document, photo, song, or video. Its type is shown by the extension, like .docx or .jpg.

Reminding word: single file ("file" as in walking single file)

LINCing story: Students walk single file — one at a time, each one separate — and a computer file is the same idea: one single saved item, with an ending like .docx or .jpg that tells you what kind it is.

Picture: A line of students walking single file, each carrying one item: a paper marked ".docx," a photo marked ".jpg," a song marked ".mp3."

folder A container that holds files, used to keep your work organized — like a labeled drawer.

Reminding word: fold ("folder" starts with "fold")

LINCing story: Fold a big sheet of paper in half and it becomes a pocket that holds all your loose pages together — a folder is exactly that: a labeled container that keeps related files organized in one place.

Picture: A big folded paper pocket labeled "Science" with papers tucked neatly inside.

Chapter 3: Exploring the Internet

browser An app used to visit websites — like Chrome, Safari, Edge, or Firefox.

Reminding word: browsing the shelves ("browser" sounds like "browse")

LINCing story: At the bookstore you browse the shelves, wandering from book to book just looking around — a browser is the app that lets you wander the web the same way, visiting site after site.

Picture: A person browsing store shelves where every book cover is a little website.

Wi-Fi A wireless internet connection from a nearby router — usually free, at home or school.

Reminding word: "Why fly?" ("Wi-Fi" sounds like "why fly")

LINCing story: "Why fly anywhere? The internet comes to you!" laughs the router, beaming a free wireless connection through the air to every device in the house.

Picture: A router with curved signal waves reaching a phone, laptop, and tablet around a living room.

cellular data Internet over the cell network (4G/5G) — works almost anywhere but is usually limited by a monthly plan.

Reminding word: seller ("cellular" starts like "seller")

LINCing story: The data seller's cart works on every street corner in town — but he charges by the gigabyte, so streaming too much runs up the monthly bill fast.

Picture: A street vendor selling glowing signal bars from a cart, with a price tag reading "per GB."

URL The address of a web page, typed in the address bar — like <https://www.example.org>.

Reminding word: Earl ("URL" sounds like "Earl")

LINCing story: Earl the mail carrier can only deliver your letter if the envelope shows the exact address — a URL is the exact address of a web page, and one wrong letter sends you to the wrong place.

Picture: A mail carrier named Earl squinting at an envelope addressed "<https://www.example.org>."

top-level domain The ending of a web address (.com, .org, .edu, .gov) that hints at who runs the site.

Reminding word: top floor ("top-level" sounds like the top floor of a building)

LINCing story: The sign on the building's top floor tells you who runs the whole place — and the ending at the top level of a web address (.com, .org, .edu, .gov) hints at who runs the site.

Picture: A skyscraper with a big glowing ".gov" sign on its top floor.

Chapter 4: Communicating and Creating

email Electronic mail — the standard way to send written messages and documents for school, work, and organizations.

Reminding word: airmail ("email" sounds like "airmail")

LINCing story: Airmail once carried serious letters swiftly around the world — today electronic mail does that job, carrying your written messages and attached documents for school and work in seconds.

Picture: An envelope with wings flying from a student's laptop to a teacher's inbox.

video call A live video-and-audio conversation over the internet, using apps like Zoom, Google Meet, or FaceTime — for classes, meetings, and doctor visits (telehealth).

Reminding word: curtain call ("video call" ends with "call," like a curtain call)

LINCing story: At the curtain call, the whole cast appears live on stage at once, waving to the audience — on a video call, everyone's live face and voice appear together on screen for class or a meeting.

Picture: A screen split into a grid of waving faces, like a cast taking a bow.

spreadsheet A grid of cells (rows and columns) for organizing numbers and doing calculations — like Excel or Google Sheets.

Reminding word: bed sheet spread out ("spreadsheet" splits into "spread" and "sheet")

LINCing story: Spread a checkered bed sheet out flat and you get a giant grid of squares — a spreadsheet is that grid on screen, with numbers in the squares and formulas doing the math for you.

Picture: A checkered bed sheet spread on a bed, numbers written in the squares and one square showing "=SUM."

presentation software Tools like PowerPoint and Google Slides for making slideshows with text, images, and media.

Reminding word: presents ("presentation" starts like "presents")

LINCing story: At the party you open your presents one at a time while everyone watches — presentation software shows your ideas the same way, one slide at a time, each with a little text and a picture.

Picture: A student on a small stage opening a row of gift boxes, each box popping open into a titled slide.

Chapter 5: Staying Safe and Smart Online

cybersecurity Protecting your devices, accounts, and personal information from digital threats like hackers, scams, and viruses.

Reminding word: security guard ("cybersecurity" contains "security")

LINCing story: A robot security guard patrols your digital house all night, checking the locks on your devices and accounts so hackers, scams, and viruses can't sneak in and steal your information.

Picture: A robot guard with a flashlight standing watch in front of a house shaped like a laptop.

password manager A secure app that creates and stores strong, unique passwords, so you only remember one master password.

Reminding word: team manager ("manager" as in a sports team manager)

LINCing story: The team manager keeps every player's gear locked in one equipment room, so each player carries just one thing — a password manager stores all your strong, unique passwords so you only remember one master key.

Picture: A manager holding a huge ring of labeled keys, handing a player one single master key.

passkey A modern way to sign in with your fingerprint or face instead of a password, so there's nothing for a thief to steal.

Reminding word: house key ("passkey" ends with "key")

LINCing story: Imagine a house key with your fingerprint built into the blade — it only works in your hand, so a thief who steals it holds nothing; signing in with your fingerprint or face works the same way.

Picture: A key whose blade is a fingerprint pattern, unlocking a phone while a frustrated thief holds a useless copy.

multi-factor authentication (MFA) A security method needing a second proof — like a code from your phone — so a stolen password alone can't get in.

Reminding word: multi-lock door ("multi-factor" starts with "multi," meaning many)

LINCing story: The vault door has multi locks: the key alone won't open it — you also need the code sent to your phone; a thief with just your stolen password stands outside knocking.

Picture: A door with two locks — a keyhole and a number pad — next to a phone displaying a code.

phishing A scam where someone pretends to be a trusted person or company to trick you into giving up passwords, money, or personal information.

Reminding word: fishing ("phishing" sounds like "fishing")

LINCing story: The scammer goes fishing with a fake "your bank account is locked!" email as the lure, hoping you bite and hand over your password before you notice the hook.

Picture: A fishing hook dangling an email marked "URGENT!" over a fish about to bite.

digital footprint The trail of data you leave online — your posts, searches, and activity — much of it permanent and visible to others, including future schools and employers.

Reminding word: footprints in wet cement ("footprint" as in footprints)

LINCing story: Step in wet cement and your footprints harden and stay for decades — every post, search, and comment leaves the same kind of lasting print online, where future schools and employers can walk by and see it.

Picture: A sidewalk of hardened footprints, each print containing a tiny post, photo, or search bar.