NO PREP

Peer-to-Peer Payments

Safe Venmo & Cash App Tips

Includes: Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

Peer-to-Peer Payments: Safe Venmo & Cash App Tips

Comparing Leading P2P Apps

Peer-to-peer (P2P) payment apps let you send and receive money instantly without cash or checks. Three of the most popular are Venmo, Cash App, and Zelle. Venmo charges 1.75% for instant transfers (standard transfers are free but take 1–3 business days) and caps weekly sends at $4,999. Cash App's instant transfer fee is 1.5%, and its weekly limit starts at $1,000 (increases with identity verification). Zelle usually has no fees and moves money within minutes, but it requires both sender and recipient to have bank accounts enrolled in Zelle. When choosing, compare fees, transfer speed, and limit thresholds to match your needs.

Security Best Practices

P2P apps store sensitive financial data, so lock them down: Enable PIN/Touch-ID; Require authentication for

Name: **Period:** **Date:**

Peer-to-Peer Payments: Safe Venmo & Cash App Tips

Comparing Leading P2P Apps

Peer-to-peer (P2P) payment apps let you send and receive money instantly without cash or checks. Three of the most popular are Venmo, Cash App, and Zelle. Venmo charges 1.75% for instant transfers (standard transfers are free but take 1–3 business days) and caps weekly sends at $4,999. Cash App's instant transfer fee is 1.5%, and its weekly limit starts at $1,000 (increases with identity verification). Zelle usually has no fees and moves money within minutes, but it requires both sender and recipient to have bank accounts enrolled in Zelle. When choosing, compare fees, transfer speed, and limit thresholds to match your needs.

Security Best Practices

P2P apps store sensitive financial data, so lock them down: Enable PIN/Touch-ID: Require authentication for each app session. Use Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Link your phone or authenticator app for extra login security. Monitor Activity: Check transaction history daily for unauthorized charges. Update App Regularly: Install security patches promptly to block known vulnerabilities. Set Privacy Controls: On Venmo, switch transactions to "private" so only you and the recipient see them.

Dangers of Sending to Strangers

Scammers often pose as buyers—especially when selling items online. Common schemes: Overpayment Fraud: They send you more than the asking price, ask you to refund the difference, then their original payment bounces. Fake Payment Screenshots: They show doctored confirmations and claim the money is "pending." Phishing Links: They text or email fake login screens to capture your credentials.

Never refund money before seeing it in your bank account, and always confirm payment receipts within the app itself (not via screenshot).

Splitting Bills and Requests Safely

Splitting group expenses—like pizza or ride shares—is one of the best uses of P2P apps. To do it safely: Create a group chat or payment request labeled with date and purpose. Use the "Split" feature where available (Venmo) so each person pays exactly their share. Set a due date and send reminders. If someone doesn't pay, politely follow up—but never chase them outside the app, or you risk sharing personal info.

Troubleshooting Tips

When transactions go awry: Refund Requests: Use the app's built-in "request refund" feature rather than informal messages. Disputed Charges: Contact your bank if money disappears from your linked account. Customer Support: Use official support channels—avoid phone numbers or emails sent by suspicious third parties. Record Conversation: Take screenshots of chats, payment requests, and receipts in case you need evidence.

Case Study Excerpt: "Ava's $200 Mix-Up"

Ava sold her gently used concert tee on a youth marketplace and the buyer insisted on paying through Cash App. The buyer claimed to have sent $200, so Ava immediately transferred $150 back as "overpayment refund." Two days later, her app balance showed only her original $50 sale—no $200. Realizing the scam, Ava opened Cash App's Help center, navigated to "Report Unauthorized Activity," and submitted screenshots of the fake confirmation and refund. Within 48 hours, Cash App credited her $150 refund back to her account after verifying the scam. Ava then enabled two-factor authentication, changed her PIN, and updated her privacy settings to "Friends Only." She now always waits 24 hours for funds to clear on her linked debit card before issuing any refunds and only uses secure payment links, never screenshots.

1. What red flags indicated Ava was being scammed?

_____

_____

2. How did Ava recover her funds and secure her account afterward?

_____

_____

Multiple Choice

1. Which P2P app generally charges NO fees for standard transfers?
    a) PayPal
    b) Zelle
    c) Venmo
    d) Cash App

2. Two-factor authentication helps by:
    a) Adding an extra login step
    b) Automating refunds
    c) Hiding your account balance
    d) Increasing transaction limits

3. You should never refund money until:
    a) You receive a screenshot of the payment
    b) The music concert ends
    c) You confirm the funds cleared in the app
    d) The buyer texts you a "thank you"

Matching

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

Term	Definition
1. ___ Privacy Settings	A) Ensures help from verified representatives
2. ___ Split-Payment Function	B) Notifies you of every transaction immediately
3. ___ Refund Request Tool	C) Shares expense evenly among participants
4. ___ Transaction Alerts	D) Lets you initiate formal reimbursement
5. ___ Official Support Channels	E) Limits who sees your transactions

Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Always confirm payments _____ in the app before acting.

2. Enabling _____ prevents unauthorized logins.

3. Use the app's built-in _____ feature for disputed payments.

Short Answer

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Describe two common P2P fraud schemes and how to avoid them.

_____

_____

_____

2. Explain why private transaction settings matter on social apps like Venmo.

3. Outline the steps you'd take if a payment you sent never arrived.