



Buy and Sell on Craigslist

Overview: Craigslist is the place for classified ads in the 21st century. Learn to search for something to buy, or use it to sell items. Look for jobs, housing, gigs, or peruse ads! Take a peek at Facebook Marketplace, too!

Student Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Requirements:

- Good mouse skills (ability to move the mouse on the computer screen and click or double click as required with minimal assistance)
- ACTIVE EMAIL ACCOUNT to POST advertisements

Objectives:

- The student will:
 - Define Craigslist
 - Discuss avoiding, identifying, and reporting SCAMS
 - Open the Internet Browser and navigate to Craigslist
 - Pick the city of choice
 - Look through the available items for sale using:
 - The Subjects
 - The Search Bar
 - View the Event Calendar
- OPTIONAL:
 - Learn to Upload Photos: Computer Memory to Craigslist
 - Post an ad to Craigslist



craigslist

The Craigslist logo is displayed in a stylized, purple, serif font. It is centered within a light gray rectangular background.

What is Craigslist?

“Each craigslist site focuses on a specific community. Originally, craigslist only listed classifieds and announcements within [San Francisco](#). As the service grew in popularity, expanding well beyond founder Craig Newmark's original concept, craigslist added other cities to its network. The first city to join the network was [Boston](#) in 2000.” Since “community members largely moderate the sites, craigslist employees can focus their attention on coordinating transactions for job and housing posts, helping members troubleshoot problems and responding to reports of abuse or illegal behavior” (Strickland, 2015).

Avoiding Scams – see <https://www.craigslist.org/about/help/safety/scams/identifying>

Deal locally, face-to-face —follow this one rule and avoid the vast majority of scam attempts.

DO NOT: Provide or accept payment before meeting in person

Provide any financial information - e.g. bank account number, cashapp logins

Provide any personal information - social security number, licenses, job references

Know that:

Requests to wire money are scams

Requests to pay with gift cards are scams

Requests to deposit a cashier's check are scams

Requests to use a escrow service can be a scam

Beware of:

Offers involving shipping or movers

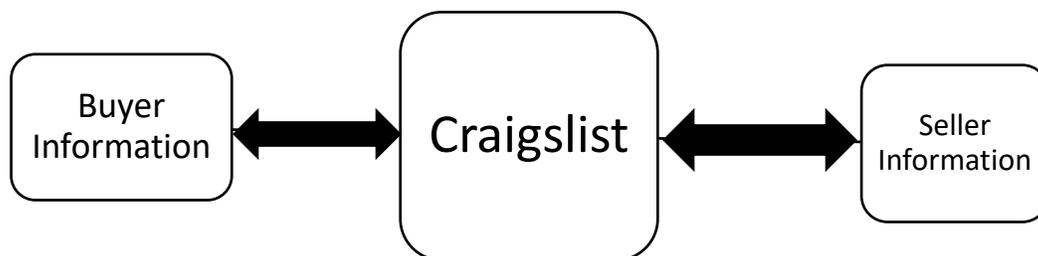
"Guaranteed" transactions or payment processing services

Requests to call or email for more information

Requests for a "code" or "verification" - these are always a scam

A good craigslist interaction will:

Use **CL mail relay** to discuss a specific item, service, or job (Craigslist Mail relay is a service that masks personal email addresses until buyer and seller are comfortable exchanging emails or telephone numbers. It looks like this:



Information between buyer and seller are managed through craigslist servers, with only craigslist knowing who is who, until personal info is exchanged, and both parties agree to meet in a safe, public place.

Identifying Scams:

Sometimes it's difficult to tell if something is a scam.

We have gathered some examples of scams sent to users so that you can learn how scammers try to trick people into giving up items, money, or personal information.

Phishing: Phishing is a type of scam that attempts to steal personal information such as accounts, passwords, and financial information.

You may receive messages that appear to be from craigslist or craigslist users asking you to:

Click on a link to log in to an account or service

Send a code for "verification"

Fill out a form on another site

Download an attachment

These are "phishing attacks" by scammers wanting to trick you into providing your personal information. If you have interacted with someone trying to gain access to your personal information, make sure to change your password immediately.

Phone Scam Examples

Below are text messages that have been sent to craigslist users by scammers. Each text message has some warning signs that can be spotted once you know what to look for. Do not respond to any messages you think are scams.

You can report scam texts by forwarding them to SPAM (7726).

Scam text message:

"Your account was reported as fraudulent. Text back with your email address so we can verify that this phone number is associated with your craigslist account. Otherwise it will be permanently erased

The Craigslist Team"

Warning signs:

Asking for personal information

Craigslist does not need your email address; you have already provided it when creating a posting.

Craigslist only verifies phone numbers when you are creating a posting - any other verification request is a scam.

USING THREATS TO CREATE A SENSE OF URGENCY

If you are worried about your postings and/or account, you can always check your posting and account status by logging in to your account.

Do not click on any links provided; instead, navigate directly to <http://accounts.craigslist.org/login> from your browser.

Reporting scams

Please [flag postings](#) and [flag emails](#) that are scams.

Who should I notify about fraud or scam attempts?

United States

- [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#)
- [FTC complaint form](#) and hotline: 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)
- [Consumer Sentinel/Military \(for armed service members and families\)](#)
- [SIIA Software and Content Piracy reporting](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Consumer Complaints](#)
- [New York Attorney General, Avoid Online Investment Fraud](#)

Canada

- [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) or 888-495-8501 (toll-free)
- If you are defrauded by someone you met in person, contact your local police department.

If you suspect that a craigslist post may be connected to a scam, please [send us the details](#).

THIS INFORMATION ON SCAMS CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE CRAIGSLIST SITE:

<https://www.craigslist.org/about/help/safety/scams/reporting/>
<https://www.craigslist.org/about/help/safety/scams/avoiding/>
<https://www.craigslist.org/about/help/safety/scams/identifying/>

Internet Browser

“**Browsers** are software programs that allow you to search for and view various kinds of information on the Web, such as Web sites, video, audio, etc.” (Boswell, 2008).

Internet Explorer is one type of Web browser. There are many different kinds of browsers, but they function similarly. Examples include **Firefox**, **Chrome**, **Opera**, and **Safari** (Mac).



Using a **browser** allows you to access Web pages which are stored on a server. **Web page(s)** make up **Web sites**. A single Web site may consist of one page to thousands of pages, just like books.

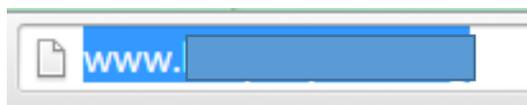
Open the Browser

There are two ways to open the Internet:

Double click on the **icon** on the **desktop** **OR**
 Click once on the icon on the **Taskbar**



Click once in the address bar, right on top of the “www.” This will turn the lettering white and blue.



Type in www.craigslist.org and press the Enter key. Most of the time, you will be directed to the closest “craigslist city” to your current location. In our case, this is Buffalo or Rochester.

The screenshot shows the Craigslist website interface. At the top, there's a navigation menu with links for US, Canada, Europe, Asia/Pacific/Middle East, Oceania, Latin America, and Africa. Below the menu is a world map with purple location markers. A pop-up window asks to 'Know your location' with 'Allow' and 'Block' buttons. Below the map, there's a section for 'US' with lists of cities for various states: Alabama, Illinois, Montana, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. The 'New York' section is expanded, showing a list of cities: albany, binghamton, buffalo, catskills, chautauqua, elmira-coming, finger lakes, glens falls, hudson valley, ithaca, long island, new york city, oneonta, plattsburgh-adirondacks, potsdam-canton-massena, rochester, syracuse, twin tiers NY/PA, utica-rome-oneida, and watertown.

Click on the closest city to us:
Either Rochester
or Buffalo

Subjects, Search Bar, and Event Calendar

Here's the typical starting page for any city. We see the subjects listed in blue links, a search bar on the left, and an event calendar. Since these change a lot, I'm not going to picture them all separately, but let's use this time to practice with each item.

The screenshot shows the Craigslist Buffalo homepage. On the left, there is a sidebar with the Craigslist logo, a 'post an ad' button, a search bar, an event calendar for the month of June (with the 26th highlighted), and links for help, FAQ, and safety tips. The main content area is titled 'buffalo' and features a grid of subject categories: community, housing, jobs, services, and discussion forums. A 'for sale' section is also present. On the right, there is a language dropdown set to 'english' and a 'nearby cl' list of other cities.

buffalo post acct

english

nearby cl

- akron-canton
- altoona
- ashtabula
- binghamton
- chautauqua
- cleveland
- cumberland val
- detroit metro
- elmira
- erie
- finger lakes
- harrisburg
- ithaca
- meadville
- northern wv
- oneonta
- pittsburgh
- poconos
- port huron
- rochester
- scranton
- state college
- syracuse
- the thumb
- tuscarawas co
- twin tiers
- utica
- watertown
- williamsport
- youngstown

community

- activities
- artists
- childcare
- classes
- events
- general
- groups
- local news
- lost+found
- missed
- connections
- musicians
- pets
- politics
- rants & raves
- rideshare
- volunteers

housing

- apts / housing
- housing swap
- housing wanted
- office / commercial
- parking / storage
- real estate for sale
- rooms / shared
- rooms wanted
- sublets / temporary
- vacation rentals

jobs

- accounting+finance
- admin / office
- arch / engineering
- art / media / design
- biotech / science
- business / mgmt
- customer service
- education
- etc / misc
- food / bev / hosp
- general labor
- government
- human resources
- legal / paralegal
- manufacturing
- marketing / pr / ad
- medical / health
- nonprofit sector
- real estate
- retail / wholesale
- sales / biz dev
- salon / spa / fitness
- security
- skilled trade / craft
- software / qa / dba
- systems / network
- technical support
- transport
- tv / film / video
- web / info design
- writing / editing

services

- automotive
- beauty
- cell/mobile
- computer
- creative
- cycle
- event
- farm+garden
- financial
- health/well
- household
- labor/move
- legal
- lessons
- marine
- pet
- real estate
- skilled trade
- sm biz ads
- travel/vac
- write/ed/tran

discussion forums

- apple
- arts
- atheist
- autos
- beauty
- bikes
- celebs
- comp
- cosmos
- diet
- divorce
- dying
- eco
- frugal
- gaming
- garden
- haiku
- help
- history
- housing
- jobs
- jokes
- legal
- manners
- marriage
- money
- philos
- photo
- politics
- psych
- recover
- religion
- rofo
- science
- spirit
- sports
- super
- tax
- travel

for sale

- antiques
- appliances
- arts+crafts
- atv/utv/sno
- auto parts
- aviation
- baby+kid
- barter
- beauty+hlt
- bike parts
- bikes
- boat parts
- boats
- books
- business
- cars+trucks
- cds/dvd/vhs
- cell phones
- clothes+acc
- collectibles
- computer parts
- computers
- electronics
- farm+garden
- free
- furniture
- garage sale
- general
- heavy equip
- household
- jewelry
- materials
- motorcycle
- parts
- motorcycles
- music instr
- photo+video
- rvs+camp
- sporting
- tickets
- tools
- toys+games
- trailers
- video gaming
- wanted
- wheels+tires

gigs

- computer
- creative
- event
- labor

help, faq, abuse, legal
avoid scams & fraud
personal safety tips

about craigslist
best-of-craigslist
craigslist is hiring
what's new
system status

craigslist charitable

craig newmark
philanthropies

WHAT DO YOU USE FOR YOUR PHOTOS? BEST ADVICE: USE THAT DEVICE TO CONNECT TO CRAIGSLIST AND CREATE YOUR POST. TABLETS AND PHONES CONNECT TO THE INTERNET, AND GETTING TO CRAIGSLIST FROM THERE TO POST IS EASY – IT WILL ALSO MAKE IT SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER TO GET YOUR PHOTOS ONTO YOUR POSTING, NO MATTER WHAT APP YOU USE!

Posting to Craigslist

You need an email account to post to Craigslist. You will also be prompted to create a craigslist account where you may modify or delete current postings, or create new ads.

Craigslist has an **email relay system** which allows all parties to remain essentially anonymous until each is comfortable with contacting the other through phone numbers or “real” email addresses. This is important in protecting the privacy of the buyer and seller.

How to submit a free Craigslist post (2015):

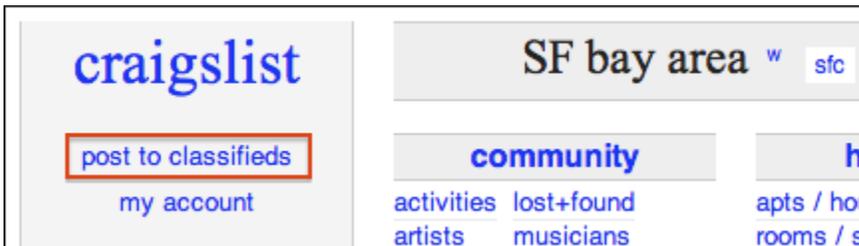
Choose a category for your post

1. Visit our homepage, craigslist.org.



- Make sure the location named at the top is where you want to post.
- If the location is not correct, visit our [list of available sites](#), and choose the most appropriate one.

2. Click "**post to classifieds**" in the top-left corner.



3. Select a category for your post.

what type of posting is this:

job offered

gig offered (I'm hiring for a short-term, small or odd job)

resume / job wanted

Depending on the type of post, you may be asked to choose additional categories.

- In "for sale" you can select a more specific category (such as "bicycles - by owner").
- In some cities, you may select a subarea (e.g. "manhattan") and neighborhood (e.g. "SoHo").

Create your post

[SF bay area craigslist](#) > san francisco > for sale / wanted > bicycles - by owner > create posting

[log in to your account](#)
(Apply for Account)

- you can add up to 12 images to this posting.
- upload best image first — it will be featured.

no files selected

slow upload? try reducing image file size.

Confirm and submit

7. Make sure your post looks right.

- Confirm that your email address and the location of your post are accurate.
- To make changes, **click "edit text" or "edit images."**
- If everything looks good, **click "publish."**

Confirm and submit

7. Make sure your post looks right.

- Confirm that your email address and the location of your post are accurate.
- To make changes, **click "edit text" or "edit images."**
- If everything looks good, **click "publish."**

[SF bay area craigslist](#) > san francisco > for sale / wanted > bicycles - by owner > create posting

Your posting will expire from the site in 7 days.

[log in to your account](#)
(Apply for Account)

this is an unpublished draft.

[CL](#) > SF bay area > san francisco > for sale / wanted > bicycles - by owner

Reply to: craigslist reply address will appear here Posted: 2013-09-20, 5:46PM PDT

Cool bike - \$150 (lower haight)

Cool bike. Very fun to ride.

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

Posted: 2013-09-20, 5:46PM PDT

[Avoid scams, deal locally!](#) Do NOT wire funds (Western Union, Moneygram). Beware cashier checks, money orders, shipping, non-local buyers/sellers. [More info](#)

8. You will now need to **confirm your post via email**.

IMPORTANT - FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUEST !!!

You should receive an email shortly, with a link to:

- publish your ad
- edit (or confirm an edit to) your ad
- verify your email address
- delete your ad

Email sent to: **[your email address]**

- When the system says "further action is required," check your email for a message from craigslist.

9. **Open the email** from craigslist, and **click the confirmation link**.

- If you are unable to click on the link, try copying and pasting it into your web browser.
- You may be asked to review the [terms of use](#) or [confirm your phone number](#).

IMPORTANT - FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUEST !!!

FOLLOW THE WEB ADDRESS BELOW TO:

- PUBLISH YOUR AD
- EDIT (OR CONFIRM AN EDIT TO) YOUR AD
- VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
- DELETE YOUR AD

If not clickable, please copy and paste the address to your browser:

<https://post.craigslist.org/x/xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

PLEASE KEEP THIS EMAIL - you may need it to manage your posting!

If all goes right, your post should appear on craigslist about 15 minutes after your confirmation!

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