

## Text 4: Cybersecurity Basics



### What is Cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity refers to the practices and technologies used to protect systems, networks, and data from digital attacks. As the world becomes increasingly reliant on technology, cybersecurity has become a critical field to safeguard sensitive information and ensure the smooth functioning of digital systems.

### Key Concepts in Cybersecurity

- **Firewalls:** Firewalls are security systems that monitor and control incoming and outgoing network traffic. They act as a barrier between trusted and untrusted networks, blocking unauthorized access.
- **Antivirus Software:** These programs detect and remove malicious software (malware) such as viruses, worms, and Trojans.
- **Encryption:** Encryption converts data into a secure format that unauthorized users cannot read, ensuring data privacy during transmission.

### Common Cyber Threats

- **Phishing Attacks:** Scammers use fake emails or messages to trick users into sharing personal information, like passwords or credit card numbers.
- **Ransomware:** This type of malware locks users out of their systems or data until a ransom is paid.
- **Data Breaches:** Hackers gain unauthorized access to systems to steal sensitive information.

### Best Practices for Staying Safe

To minimize the risk of cyberattacks, individuals and organizations should follow these best practices:

- Use strong, unique passwords for each account.
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links or attachments.
- Keep software and systems updated with the latest security patches.
- Regularly back up important data.

## Comprehension Questions

### I. Vocabulary

Find the meanings of the following terms and translate them into French:

- Firewall
- Encryption
- Ransomware
- Breach

### II. True or False

- A firewall blocks unauthorized access to a network.
- Encryption makes data readable for anyone who intercepts it.
- Phishing involves tricking users into sharing sensitive information.

### III. Open-ended Questions

- What is the role of a firewall in cybersecurity?
- Describe two common cyber threats and how they can affect individuals or organizations.
- Why is it important to keep software and systems updated?

### IV. Writing Task

Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) about a cybersecurity concept or tool (e.g., firewalls, antivirus software, encryption). Explain how it works and why it is essential in protecting digital systems.

*Good luck !*