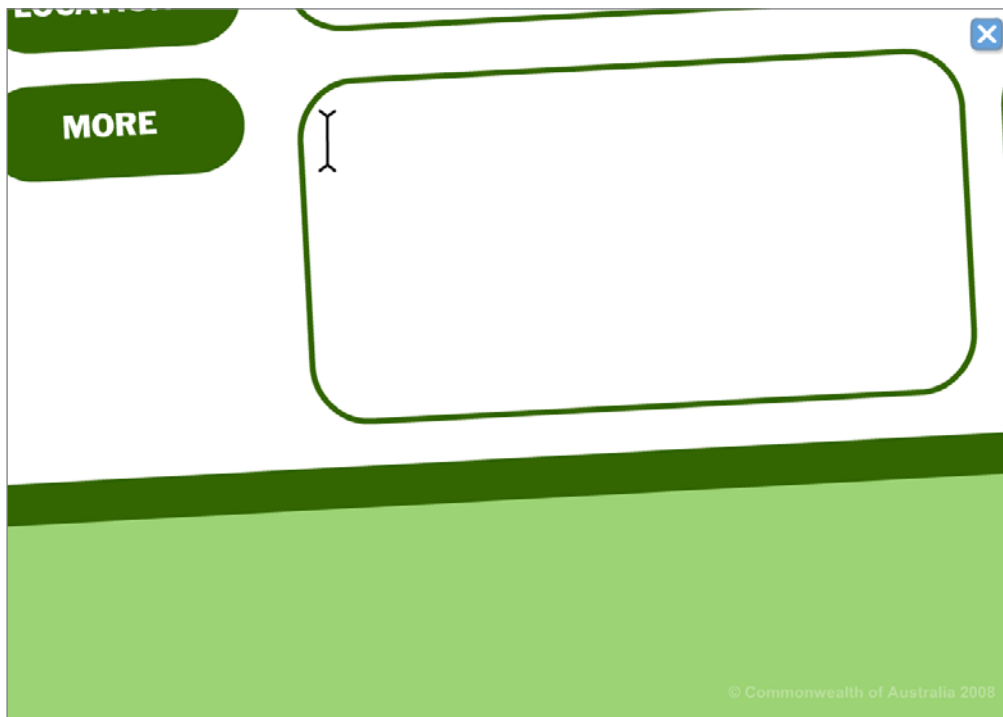


Making a chat profile

When you decide to chat online you may be asked to make a profile to describe yourself. You may be asked for a handle or username, your real name, your location, your interests and so on.

In this exercise we will look at some of the information you should or should not put in your profile. We will use the profile that the cousins develop for themselves as an example.

One of the first things you can choose is a handle—a name you are called on the web.



The boy cousin invents a name that shows what he is interested in but his sister doesn't want to enter a username in the box.

He says, 'Let's call ourselves Slime'R'Us'. But his sister says to leave this box empty.

Do you agree with the boy or the girl cousin's choice?

If you don't have a handle or username how will people know the messages come from you and who to send their answers to? This means the boy cousin has chosen the right thing to do.

Did you agree with the right cousin?



cyber(smart:)

Next you may be asked to fill in your name.

A screenshot of a registration form with a green and white color scheme. On the left side, there are three green buttons labeled 'NAME', 'LOCATION', and 'MORE'. To the right of the 'NAME' button is a text input field with a cursor. To the right of the 'AGE' button is another text input field. Below the 'LOCATION' button is a larger text input field. At the bottom right of the form, there is a small copyright notice: '© Commonwealth of Australia 2008'.

The boy cousin says they should put in their surname but his sister wants to leave this box empty.

Which cousin do you agree with?

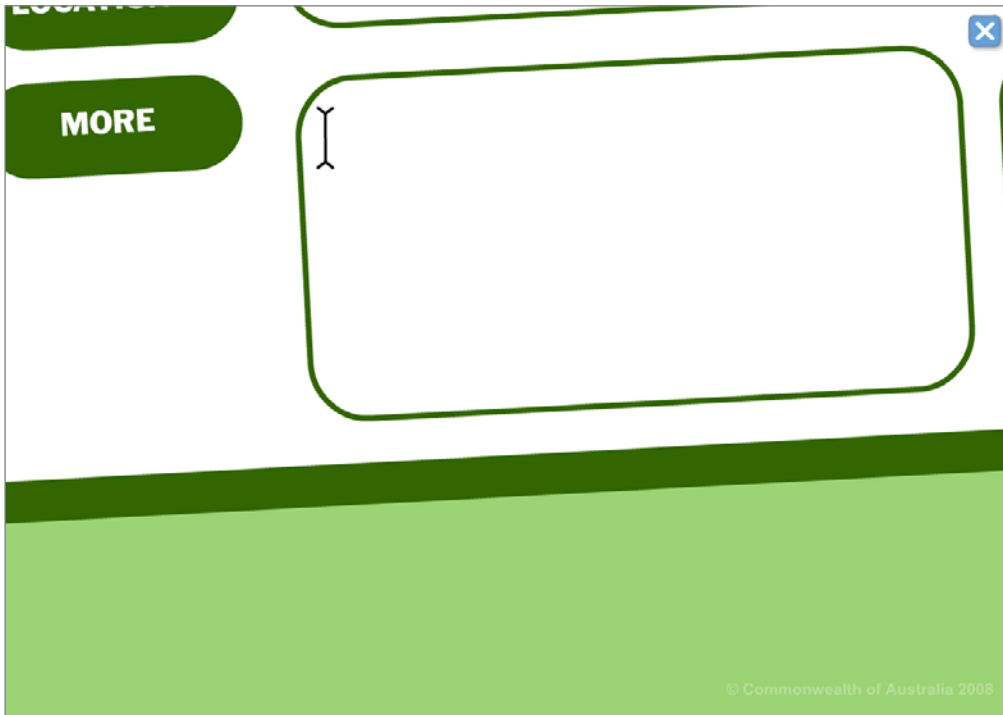
You should never give your real name when you are chatting online, so the girl cousin's suggestion is right.

Did you agree with the right cousin?



cyber(smart:)

If you are asked to write more about yourself and your interests you should think carefully about what to say.



The girl cousin wants to tell people about her keen interest in basketball by writing that she is the top scorer for their basketball club, the Jolimont Dunkers. Her brother thinks they should just put that they like basketball.

Would you put in the information that the girl cousin wants to enter or would you choose to respond as her brother suggests?

Remember if you give too much information you may let people work out your real identity, so the boy cousin is right.

Did you agree with the right cousin?

