

Kim Komando TIPS

Finding hidden cameras in Airbnbs, cruise ships, and hotels? My top pick gadget sold out in hours, so don't miss out on this one. [Here's my \\$26 backup](#). It finds wireless spy cams, GPS trackers under your car and pinhole lenses hidden in smoke detectors and alarm clocks. Fits in your bag. I sweep every rental. You should, too. Don't sleep on this one. (Especially not in a room you haven't swept.) — *Kim*

TODAY'S DEEP DIVE

Smish and tell

⚡ TL;DR

- Americans lost \$639 million to text scams last year, 7x what they lost in 2020.
- Paste any suspicious text into AI. Get a verdict in five seconds.
- The prompt fits on one line. Save it once. Use it forever.

📖 **Read time:** 3 minutes

It's so annoying. Your phone buzzes. There's a dollar amount, a deadline and a link you don't recognize. Your stomach drops for a second. Real or fake? You stare at it for three seconds, second-guessing yourself.

Americans lost \$639 million to text scams in 2025. More than 7x what they lost in 2020. And those are just the people who reported it. Text scams went from nuisance to crisis the second AI started writing the bait.

IBM tested this. AI built a phishing campaign in five minutes that took human hackers 16 hours to match, same click rate.

You don't have to guess anymore. AI will tell you in five seconds.



The one-line prompt

Open **ChatGPT**, **Claude**, **Gemini** or **Grok**. Paste in the text, then this prompt:

```
Is this text a scam? Tell me yes or  
you see, and tell me exactly what
```

Wait five seconds. Done.

That's it, No app to download. No subscription.
No asking a friend. Saved once, the prompt
works forever.

Safety tip: Paste only the text, never your
account numbers or SSN. AI doesn't need your
private info to spot bait.



4 scam texts spreading now

- **“You missed jury duty. Pay \$2,000 or face arrest.”** Real courts never text or call about missed jury duty. They use the U.S. mail. Period.
- **“Traffic violation. Scan this QR code to pay.”** Even if it has an official-looking state seal, real DMVs don’t text. The tells: a made-up legal code, a sketchy .cc URL and a QR code. Three strikes, all scam.
- **“\$4.20 toll balance overdue.”** Toll authorities don’t text payment links. Ever. Real bills come in the mail.
- **“Hey, are we still on for dinner?”**
From a stranger. That’s bait for a long con. They’ll chat for weeks, then steer you to a shady crypto trading platform. Block and delete.

Gmail’s three-word trap: I almost admire a scam this boring. Hackers are using a [Google Drive sharing loophole](#) to send Gmail alerts asking you to verify your access. It looks like work, not spam. Click it, and your Google account, email, photos, docs and recovery info can be taken over fast. If any email asks you to click a Drive link to “verify your access,” stop cold. Don’t click. Report phishing.

Want three new super useful prompts every Thursday? Get them free, in **Splash of AI**. It's my free Thursday newsletter. [Sign up here](#).

 **Send this to someone who** forwards every weird text to the family group chat. Tap those links below to do it right now.