

The 7 Steps - August



1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.



Hackerone

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

Listening Questions 1

1. What do hackers try to steal?

2. What are two elements of hacking and what are they used for?

3. Who do Hackerone partner with?

4. How do hackers find jobs through Hackerone?

5. When are hackers paid for their work?

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening Questions 2

1. What are 2 notable companies or organizations that hired Hackerone?

2. What was the 'Hack the Pentagon' initiative and what were the results?

3. What annual hacking events are occurring?

4. What has been seen as irresponsible by some companies?

5. What was the frequency of hacking events in 2021?

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Discussion Questions

1. What is your opinion of hiring hackers to purposefully break into companies?
2. What do companies need to do to improve their cybersecurity?

4. CHECK ANSWERS

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

5. CHECK VOCABULARY

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

6. READ ALOUD

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 1

Hacking has become a billion-dollar business. The image of hacking used to be the illegal actions of young computer geniuses finding ways to break into companies' computer systems as a way of being a **nuisance**. Today, it is a government sanctioned activity, where teams of highly trained computer engineers purposefully attack and steal business information or national intelligence of other nations.

Hacking has many **facets**, some of the more common ones are ransomware, viruses, trojans, and social engineering. All of these can be used to gather private and confidential information to exploit a person, company, or even country.

In the fight against cybercriminals, a new breed of security company has emerged where hackers themselves are hired to find security issues. The biggest so far is Hackerone. Founded in 2012, this company partners with the world's largest hacking community to purposefully try to find security holes in a company's network. Hackerone has an interesting business design where it relies on crowdsourcing to find workers. First, major companies make a contract with Hackerone. Then the company posts the opportunity on their own job platform. Hackers can then choose which job they want to attempt. Once vulnerabilities have been discovered and **verified**, the individuals are then paid for their work.

Nuisance	Facet	Verify	Flaw	Mandatory
Fill-in the blanks with the appropriate word / phrase above:				
1. Once your passport has been _____ you can enter a country.				
2. Drug tests are _____ for all athletes.				
3. There are still some _____ of the company that are not working well.				
4. The IT company had to pay millions of dollars to correct the security _____ in their program.				
5. Local residents complained that the noise from the stadium was causing a public _____.				

TRANSCRIPT 2

To date Fortune 500 companies such as Twitter, Adobe, LinkedIn, and even the US Defense Department have hired Hackerone to help them secure their applications and private information. One of the first initiatives was a program called "Hack the Pentagon". The program encouraged hackers to try and crack into their system and find security holes. This resulted in over 138 verified vulnerabilities and over \$70,000 paid out.

Due to the success of the program, further initiatives such as "Hack the Army" and "Hack the Airforce" led to discoveries of hundreds of security and network **flaws** with thousands of dollars being paid to professional hackers. Live events and hackathons that run in collaboration with major companies have now become annual events.

Although there are major companies who hire Hackerone to secure their network, there is growing concern over the global impact of cyberattacks. As noted by Technewsworld, astonishingly 20% of companies have no plans to protect themselves against attacks. This has been seen as irresponsible by many as cyberattack incidents have increased in speed and frequency. Hacking events occurred every 40 seconds in 2016 and sped up to every 11 seconds in 2021. These facts leave a huge headache for the evolving economy where digital transformation is seen as almost **mandatory**.