

Every Phishing Email Has These 5 Red Flags. Here's How to Spot Them Before You Click.

Phishing starts 90% of all cyberattacks. Once you know these five signs, you'll spot them in any email — every time.

Mayank Jain · mayankjain.io

Before AI, phishing emails were easy to spot — bad grammar, generic greetings, obvious fake links. AI has eliminated every one of those tells. The five red flags below are in every fake email. Here is exactly what they look like.

The email below is a phishing email. The orange annotations show each red flag and explain exactly what makes it suspicious — in the order you would read it.

FROM	"Amazon Customer Service" <no-reply@amaz0n-india-delivery.com>
D — DOMAIN:	"amaz0n" uses a zero, not the letter 'o'. The real domain is amazon.in — this address is fake.
TO	you@gmail.com
SUBJECT	■ Action Required: Your Amazon delivery failed — pay Rs. 49 to reschedule
Dear Customer,	
S — SENDER:	Amazon always addresses you by name and shows your order number. "Dear Customer" is a mass mail — not a message from the real Amazon.
Your recent delivery could not be completed due to an address issue. A small rescheduling fee is required to release your shipment.	
Pay Rs. 49 within 24 hours or your order will be permanently cancelled.	
M — MESSAGE:	Rs. 49 is small enough to pay without thinking — that's the point. Pair a tiny amount with a 24-hour deadline and most people click before they question it.
Pay Rs. 49 & Reschedule Delivery → amazon.in/reschedule/payment	
L — LINK:	That button says "amazon.in" — the real URL destination is different. On phone: long-press to preview the URL. On desktop: hover before clicking.
Please keep a copy of your delivery invoice for reference:	
■	Delivery_Invoice_#4928.zip
A — ATTACHMENT:	Delivery invoices are never .zip files. Opening this installs malware on your device — do not click it.
Amazon Customer Service Team	

■ If you already clicked a suspicious link: disconnect from Wi-Fi, change the password for any account you entered details into, and enable 2-step verification. Act within minutes — not hours.