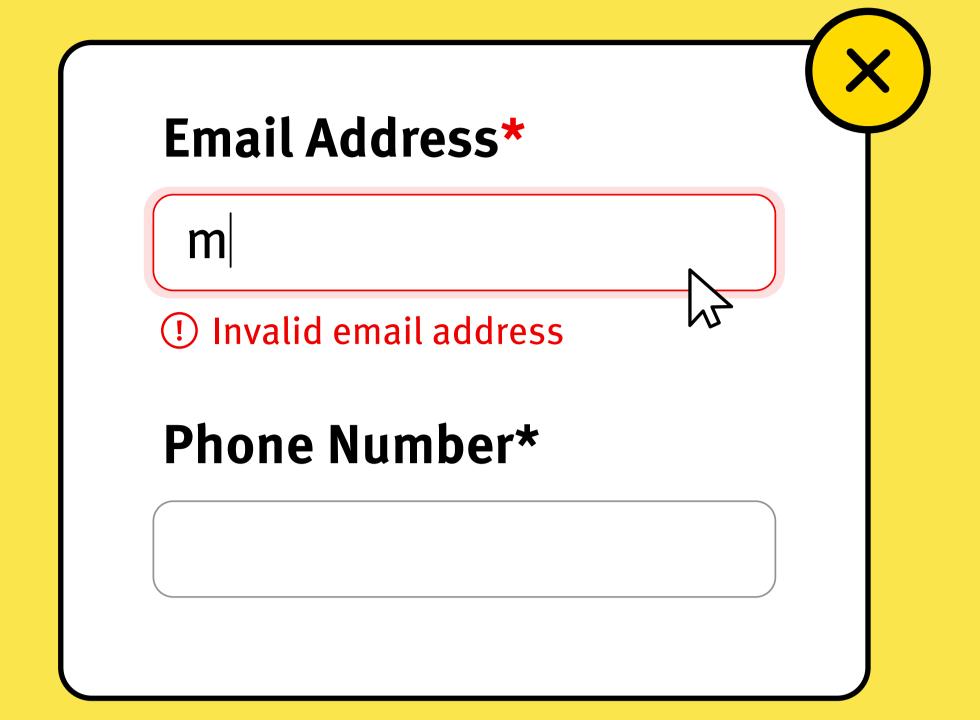
Guidelines to Avoid Hostile Patterns in Error Messages

TIP 1

Avoid premature error messages

Wait until a user moves from a field to display an error message.

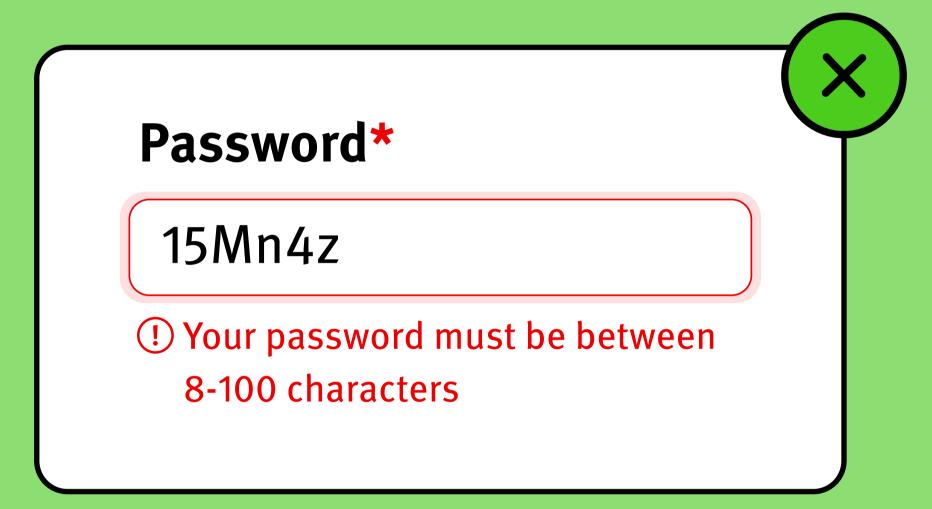


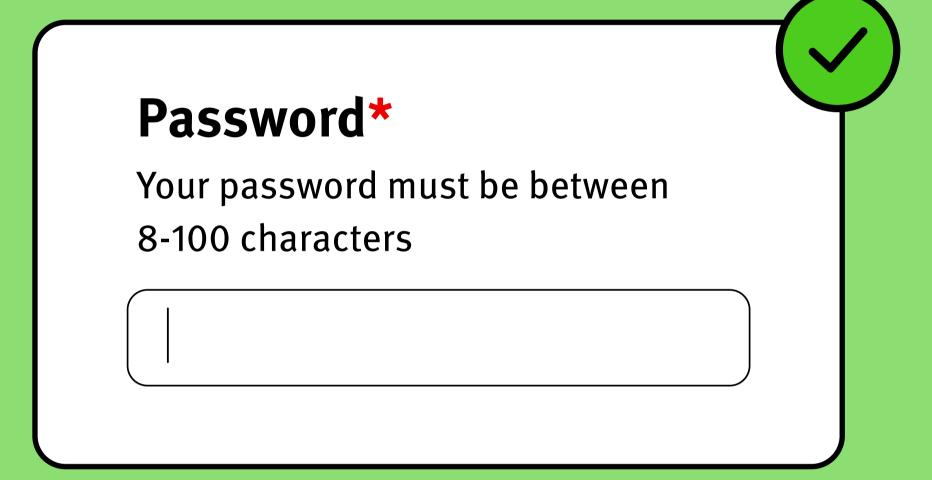


TIP 2

Provide any constraints upfront

Do not wait until the user begins typing or attempts to submit the entry.

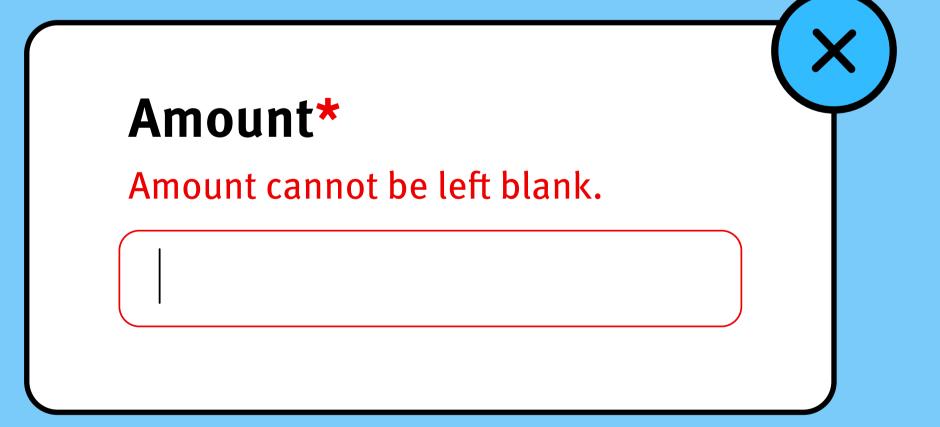


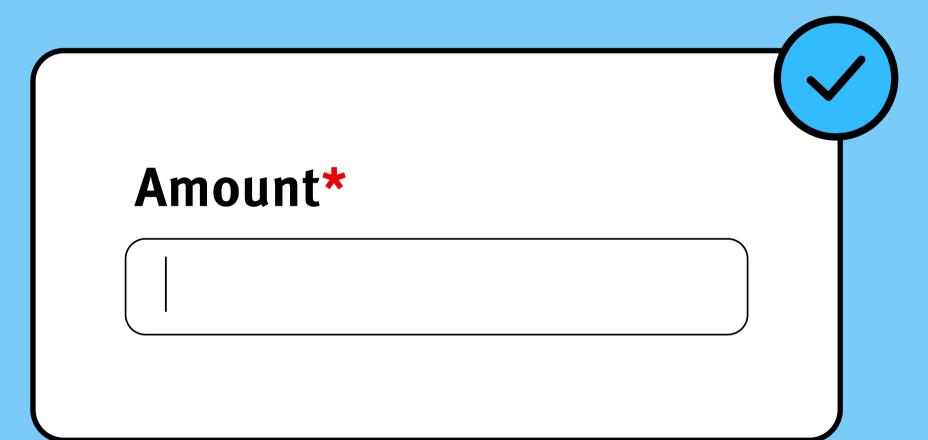


TIP 3

Do not overload your user with multiple indicators

e.g., asterisk *and* red outlined field *and* inline validation message





TIP 4

Reserve error-like visual treatments for critical system-status messages

Routine system-status messages that communicate noncritical information should be discoverable, but not intrusive.

