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**Episode #365 Show Notes**  
**5 Tests For Internet "Fraud Busting"**  
**In Self-Defense**

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Buck Greene is a long-time survivalist, fill-in podcast host, interviewer, and creative director for *Warrior Life*. He holds an instructor-level rank in a hybrid Silat/Kuntao system and has spent decades attending in-person force-on-force training in firearms, knives, combatives, and a variety of related topics.

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# 5 Tests For Internet “Fraud Busting” In Self-Defense

with Buck Greene from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

## 1. The One-Sentence Test

- Any self-defense instructor ought to be able to give you his background in one or two sentences. If the explanation is a rambling autobiography full of vague references that can't be verified, that's a red flag.
- Likewise, can you sum up your own training in one or two sentences? If you're honest, you can.
- You do NOT need fancy credentials to learn combatives or to become competent at self-defense. You just need to be honest with yourself and with others.
- Self-defense, after all, is about recognizing and dealing with what IS, not what we WISH it could be. Wishful thinking is what gets people hurt or killed.

## 2. The Teacher Test

- A teacher or student ought to be able to tell you the name or names of the people who taught him. This should be an easy answer (and easy to remember).
- If the teacher's existence cannot be verified, especially if the teacher claims to have learned in a mysterious “family tradition,” that's a red flag.

## 3. The Google Test

- A simple online search will tell you a lot about most instructors. Keep in mind that even great teachers do have enemies and critics, so don't be discouraged just because somebody doesn't like the person.

- If EVERYTHING you read about someone online indicates they're a fraud, be wary.

## 4. The Dumb As Hell Test

- People who dangerous things on camera that could get people hurt or killed demonstrate a reckless disregard for safety. That's a red flag.
- The only person I can think of who actually was a legitimate instructor despite passing the Dumb As Hell test was the late Larry Wick, who was a super nice guy but who filmed an entire suicidal video in which he did disarms with loaded guns!

## 5. The “Fight Me” Test

- People who constantly issue fight challenges (which are dumb to begin with) and then back out of those fight challenges are usually frauds.
- By the same token, if a guy sets up ridiculous conditions for you to meet before you get the honor of fighting him, he's not serious about a match.
- There's a famous fight challenge that took place a few years ago in Kentucky in which two Ninjitsu teachers (one legitimate, one a fraud) almost has a challenge match, but the challenger backed down (and then went to prison on gun charges later). People who post videos humiliating themselves, and who don't seem to realize they don't look good (like an American Idol contestant who can't sing) are a HUGE red flag.

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What's up warriors and welcome to warriorlife podcast number 365. This is Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson this week. And today I want to talk to you about five tests. You can apply to bust frauds. There are plenty of people out there teaching who probably shouldn't be. It's hard to know when they are full of it and when they aren't, this is not definitive. But there are five tests you can

That will show you some red flags. Let's say, in case they shouldn't necessarily be taken seriously, you know, maybe you should be a little more wary of them if they fail some of these tests. So without further ado, let's talk five tests for internet. Fraud busting tactical firearms, training, urban survival, close-quarters combat. Welcome to the show. That helps you better prepare for any threat. You may face in your

your role as a protector and a patriot. This is the warrior Life podcast. Alright, we're back. Again. This is Buck Greene in for Jeff Anderson. I told you we were going to talk about five tests for internet fraud busting by that. I mean, that there are lots of people teaching self-defense or claiming to impart self defense instruction, who are kind of full of it. And there is a time, was a time. I should say, when it was a lot easier to sort of lie, your way to success in the martial arts. I'm old enough to remember,

When I had to order books on knife fighting and combatives from mail-order catalogs, like the Paladin press catalog, and the Delta press catalog companies that sadly are no longer with us today. And, you know, this was before those companies started marketing on the internet. This is before any of those things we take for granted. Now, we're part of life. So there was a time. Like certain ninja figure in the 1980s. Could lie his way to success during the 1980s ninja craze and become a relatively

Lee, well-known figure in ninja martial arts in the United States simply by claiming I did this and I learned this and none of it was true without the internet to fact-check him. So, to speak. And I know fact-checking has kind of a bad flavor to it now than this age of big Tech censorship, but when there was no way to look into these claims people, tended to take instructors at their word, with the Advent of the internet. A lot of these people who made a name for themselves back in the day. We're pretty much exposed as

Total frauds people who just made stuff up and expected, that that would be good enough. So, over the years and I've been a martial arts student for multiple decades. I've developed five tests that I like to apply or rather. It might be more accurate to say that the things I think about whether or not a teacher should be taken. Seriously, could be boiled down to five different tests. And you can use those tests to determine. If there are red flags, if maybe you should look a little more closely into

this instructors background before you choose to give them your money before you choose to take them. Seriously. Before you choose to take instruction from them. It'll a lot of cases. When a guy's a fraud. He's just teaching you the material might be good or it might not. He might just be lying about his background. But the material is sound, the material itself might be bad and which case if you tried to use it you could get hurt. Or in worst case scenarios. The training itself could be dangerous. You could, you know, actually be putting yourself in danger working with a teacher who doesn't take your safety seriously, so

Are all things to consider about why you want to train with a legitimate teacher and not with a fraud and we're making a distinction here. There are teachers, whose backgrounds are perfectly legitimate, who don't lie about anything they've done and who are actually quite skilled who are still people. You should not trained with. I can think of one instructor in particular who is widely rumored to be a cokehead who I've never heard anyone say he can't fight but I've never heard anyone say anything good about him in terms of working with him. So keep these things in mind.

And when you're making a judgment as to, whether or not, someone should be getting your money test. Number one is what I call the one sentence test. Anybody with a legitimate background in martial, arts, and self-defense and combatives training, ought to be able to explain to you what their background and their credentials are in one or two sentences, you know. Hey, what are your credentials? Well, I have a black belt in karate and I've taken a number of seminars in World War II. Combatives. Hey, what are your credentials? Well, I don't have any official credentials. I go.

Seminars all the time. And I've learned from this guy and that guy and that guy and I've given you the names of those guys, in this hypothetical scenario, if you ask someone, hey, what are your credentials and you get this lengthy Saga about how well early on in life. I identified the need for a better way to fight. And so I sought out all the greatest Masters and people who I won't name and can't name or people that you've never heard of and we'll never hear of and I'm synthesizing the greatest work of all of those people together.

Either in order to build better fighting system and I don't hold tradition, but at the same time, I know that blah blah, blah, blah, blah blah, and they just go on and on forever. A good rule of thumb is to when you're being conned is the longer and more, elaborate the explanation. The less likely it is to be true. Well, somebody who cannot give you a one or two sentence answer to what their credentials are. They may still be telling the truth, but you need to be more suspicious because again, the longer the explanation, the more suspicious you should be. It's a

Play, there are plenty of people out there who are competent when it comes to combat. Has in self-defense. Who don't have official credentials. Don't have those specific ranking self-defense. Really just requires you to be honest, you're recognizing. What is the fact of reality? You cannot defend yourself with wishful thinking, you can't say. Well, I wish the world was like this. And therefore, I'm going to behave that way. This is how people get themselves into trouble. They're the people who say, well, I don't carry a weapon because I don't feel afraid.

Pally doesn't matter what you feel. If you're in danger, you're in danger in reality, doesn't care what you think about it. So when you're evaluating, whether someone can impart something to you, you know, in terms of self defense instruction, they don't necessarily have to have impressive credentials. As long as they're being honest with you, about where the material is coming from.

All right. Test number two is what I call the teacher test and it's kind of closely related. You ought to be able to identify by name the person or persons with whom you studied, you know, for example, I trained with a man who trained with another fellow named. I'm not going to give you the names but I trained under a fellow named Dan Dan trained. Under a fellow named Gary Gary learned the system, from a fellow who came to the United States by way of Holland from Indonesia.

Shh. And those are the three people in the chain of, that martial art. That's how I know where I am in that hierarchy of instruction. I can give you. If we are speaking in a personal way. I can give you those three names, those three people exist. You can find word of them on the Internet, you know, and verifiably. They were all real people. That's very simple. You ought to be able to go. Where did you learn? Karate? I learned, for example, I took this style of karate when I was in college or you know, that kind of thing. If the teacher is one of those people who cannot

Be verified, if you can find no word of his existence. If you know, I learned through family members who want to keep their involvement private and you wouldn't know it. You, you know, he's too obscure and or if you learn from someone who's now dead and can't defend themselves or provide any evidence that they ever existed. If if the

teacher is shrouded in mystery or you simply can't get a straight answer about where this person got their instruction. Then they have failed the teacher test and that is a red flag. There are

Of fake martial arts people out there like, oh, well, I was taught by family. It's a family tradition. And yeah, the thing about Family Traditions is they can't be verified. Does that mean no one's ever learned a hereditary family tradition? Martial art know, it's happened but it's not as common as a lot of these people would have you believe. So there is a, there is a particular, martial arts figure who's actually, supposedly had a movie based on his life. And he claimed that his teacher was this obscure Japanese fellow.

Who just happens to share a name with a famous James Bond figure who was famous around the time. This guy was probably making up his, his martial arts history. So, you know, little things like that and you know that when you just can't point to. Yeah, I learned from this guy, he lived at this address. He's either alive or dead now, but he was a real person. Those are simple answers. And in some ways. This is like my one sentence test applied to teachers. The answer ought to be simple. If it's not, there's a problem.

Test. Number three is what I call the Google test. And this is less definitive when you search for someone and you search the name of an instructor or you search the name of a, you know, an instructing facility and entity in the training World. You'll probably get Negative responses, especially in martial, arts, and self-defense. Everybody's got enemies. All you have to do is have an opinion and there will be people who have nasty things to say about you. There's also these defamatory

Willis websites like Ripoff Report. We're literally anyone can write anything anonymously and just make up lies most of the time. When you see someone posting to a site like Ripoff Report. They're just making stuff up to make someone else look bad. So you have to take what you read on the internet, with a grain of salt, people do have enemies. However, if you look up an instructor online and all you see are references from multiple sites about how this person is a fraud and how they've been exposed and how this bad thing and that bad.

Thing or maybe even links to crimes, they've committed, that should give you pause. So, the more negativity you find when you do a Google search, if you can't, just attribute it to the bickering and the the politicking that goes on in the martial arts. If there's actual allegations of illegal misdeeds or if all you hear, is this guy made up his background. This guy's a fraud. This guy was exposed here. This guy was exposed

there. Then you should be very concerned. You should take that red flag and go. Hmm.

I need to look into this further before I give this guy, my money, or before I show up for one of his classes. Why does that matter? Well, in some cases all you're losing is money. Like if I buy a DVD from a fraud, all I've lost is some money and I now have a DVD that isn't particularly good, but if I take classes with someone who does stupid things then, that is very much a red flag where this is most obvious is in Firearms instructor, because remember, when we talked about self-defense in combat as well.

Not leaving weapons out. There's lots of people out there teaching with Firearms. All of these tests apply, you know, the one sentence test. Where did you get your credentials to teach Firearms to teach? Tactical combat with with guns the teacher test. So so who is the person who instructed you? Where did you come by this knowledge? If I do a search for that Firearms instructor, do I find a lot of stuff that say that his teaching is unsound and the stuff he teaches us unsafe, this brings us to test number four, the dumb as hell test.

Have you seen evidence of can you find evidence of this person doing something outrageously stupid, which would be a red flag and you see this a lot in the viral videos that float around to various Firearms instruction schools and Firearms instructors who are doing painfully dumb things with guns that endanger the people around them. And in some cases endanger them. There was the the famous Firearms instructor who got kicked out of a couple of ranges because he was in the Stalls doing like knife and gun.

Close Quarters combat of stuff and he fired off a round into the ceiling. All of that is, I would classify that as dangerous dumb stuff with Firearms. There's only one person I can think of who was a good instructor and a good man, despite the fact that he did what I thought was painfully stupid and dangerous stuff with a firearm and he acknowledged that when I talked to him about it and that was the late, great Larry Wick from split-second, survival. Larry, has passed away and that's a terrible shame. He was a wonderfully, nice.

Man, and I had the pleasure of interviewing him more than once and Larry did an entire DVD where he disarmed. He did Firearms disarms with loaded guns. Now, there's no way anyone should ever do that. It's incredibly dangerous. And all you have to do is make one mistake and you die. So I he's the only person who ever failed the dumb as hell test, but who I would still consider training with in real life because even he acknowledged how dangerous what he was was





I still can't reconcile what I know of him. As a person with the fact that he was willing to do that. I guess he was making a bold Choice, a bold statement, but I don't know. I know statement is so bold that it should put her life in danger. I think. So, when a, when an instructor is when you apply the dumb as hell test, if they're doing something that's really dangerous. If you see evidence of them having done this, then that's a huge red flag because if they're willing to do something dangerous in,

Context, they may do it in class and the stuff, they're teaching you may not be particularly safe. Oh, here's a good example. There was a huge internet, kerfuffle over an instructor, who's a relatively young man who does a lot of online Internet instruction, and he was making a point about how you shouldn't. When you transition to your handgun. You shouldn't move the rifle around your body in a way that causes the barrel to sweep the people around you. And in talking about this fact, he did just that with the barrel of his rifle.

Will that had been used a moment before to put a live round down range? So essentially he was sweeping the entire class with the muzzle of a weapon that they had. No way of knowing was not carrying a live round another, a second live round. So I would consider that failing the dumb as hell test. And would I work with that instructor? No, I would not, I would not take his classes. I would not give him any of my money. I don't consider him qualified to teach because he was willing to make a mistake like that, and you can find all kinds of examples of that, their instructors who Pride themselves.

Elves and showing their students standing next to targets that bullets are getting put in to see. I put a bullet in that Target and he's standing right next to it. And that's just how good we are. No, that's how stupid you are, and you will never get my money. And I will never work with you because you failed the dumb as hell test.

All right. Test number five is the fight me test. And by this, I mean people in the, the martial arts world, who are fond of issuing fight challenges. You shouldn't take them seriously. Most of the time, a lot of people will issue fight challenges and then back out of them. So right there, when they say I'll fight you would know I won't, you know, most most internet fight challenges, never happen. And somebody who issues fight challenges is probably an instructor who should not be taken seriously.

So there are people who will set up ridiculous conditions to fight them. Like in order for the honor of fighting me. You have to provide a \$10,000 security Bond and the fight has to take place on a floating oil. Ocean platform on Tuesday when the moon is full and Venus is in retrograde. And also I really don't want to fight you. So I hope these

conditions will discourage you from actually meeting them. So, you know, if they make it so hard to fight them that it's impossible to do. So.

Then obviously, that's that's a red flag. There are times when people are willing to fight and the fact that they were willing to fight tells you something about them. You know, somebody who like there's a Firearms instructor. I can think of who issued a standing challenge, that anyone who wanted to call him a fraud or say bad things to him. He would give them a plane ticket and they should come to meet him and tell him to his face. Now, the implication was that you wouldn't

Dare say that to my face because I'll, you know, beat you up or something. So, it was as challenges go, it was pretty dodgy because was like, I can never be wrong because anyone who says I'm wrong, I will punch them. So that that gives you an indicator of character and it's a red flag. You know, it's another thing. If someone is just like, if you challenge me, I'll accept the challenge and then we'll fight and then they do, that's a different matter. Now, you have someone who's willing to stand behind what they do. I guess you can draw your own conclusions as to whether or not you want to work with someone who's willing to do that. I it doesn't bother me.

As long as they're honest about who they are and they're willing to fight and then they do I can think of one example a few years ago to ninja instructors. One guy does bujinkan Ninjutsu, which some of you may have heard of. And another guy does fake ninja stuff because he's been widely Exposed on the internet as a fraud. He's one of those people who, if you were to search his name, you wouldn't find anything positive about him on the internet. So one, get the first guy, the the legitimate guy was

Giving in and struck. He's giving a seminar in Kentucky. Second guy shows up in Kentucky and challenges. Well, not really challenges confronts him. Let's say, second guy has brought a whole bunch of people with him because he needed the moral support. And first guy looks at him with what I can only describe as a hate boner. The look on first, guy's face was like, oh, yes, I will gladly fight you. Here are the mats that are set up for people to fight on.

Please young sir. Step out onto the mat and allow us to fight. I have never seen a guy want to fight someone else more. Well, second guy, the fake guy back down and then posted the video online. And the point I'm making people who post videos of themselves almost fighting or getting into fights and losing badly, or sparring badly. Those people are like those contestants in the early rounds of American Idol, I may

Be dating myself with that reference because I don't know how many of you still watch American Idol. I don't even know if it's still on the air, but in the show American Idol,



that one of the drawers of the show was people who couldn't sing would audition. They were terrible at it and when told they were terrible at it, they got very angry because they were all so delusional. And they could not fathom that they weren't good at this thing that they were objectively not good at. So, people who will post videos of them, giving challenges or losing challenges, or

King challenges, and back down of them. In this case. This guy, the fraudulent guy second guy. I called him posted the video of the encounter, which was recorded by one of the thugs that he brought with him to this confrontation thinking that somehow this made him look good. And no, no it did not in the fact that he did not understand. That was one of the biggest red flags possible. Now that particular guy ended up going to prison and he resides in prison to this day on a Firearms charge. That was in.

Enhanced by the fact that he attacked his own lawyer while awaiting trial. So fun tip, if you are awaiting trial on Firearms, charges do try not to physically assault your lawyer because they will tack on time for that. So that that guy spent as much time in prison as it took me to pay off my Toyota so which I bought new. So, you know, it's just just a tip for how to live your life. So people who engage in these kinds of fight challenge nonsense, if they're not just

Okay, I'll fight you. And then they do and then they manage to look decent for themselves. And it's pretty much a red flag. So, let's review, what are my five tests for internet fraud busting. The first one is the one sentence test. They ought to be able to Simply explain to you what their credentials are. The second one is the teacher test. They ought to be able to Simply explain to you who taught them and how they got the knowledge. They have the third one is the Google test where, if all you can find is negative information. That may be a red flag. The fourth one is the dumb as hell.

Steny one who's willing to do things that are wild, Beyonce for wildly. Stupid is probably not someone that you should be working with. And the final one five. The fight me test is if they're constantly issuing challenges and backing out of them or just generally behaving, like a belligerent jerk that may be a red flag as well. Alright, I hope this helps as you seek out instruction. I know that in-person instructions kind of a thorny topic right now. I've talked about this in the past, one of the

Previous times that I said, in, on the podcast, I talked about some myths about in-person training and encourage you to go out and get it. But the fact is the pandemic is still with us. The people are still worried about the Delta variant. These variants are starting to sound like Fraternity Row, but honestly, I understand there are a lot of people who aren't really comfortable getting together with a bunch of strangers right now, right? Or wrong, whatever. You feel about that, you know, there are options and

you do have options for distance, learning, and for training online, and for training, by DVD and things like that, so, these

Tests, generally can be applied to just about anything and I hope they help you. All right, this is Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson that's going to about do it for this issue of, where your life radio. Until next time, prepare train and survive. It would listening to the warrior live podcast. We hope you've enjoyed the show. You can help us spread the mission of self-reliance and self-protection. When you rate US and leave us a comment wherever you enjoy these podcasts, and don't forget to check out our

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