**Synthetic Drugs Awareness Series**

**Lesson 1: Synthetic Cannabinoids ("K2," "Spice")**

**Overview:**

* Marketed as "safe" alternatives to marijuana but are chemically altered and often unpredictable.
* Can cause hallucinations, paranoia, seizures, kidney damage, and death.
* Usually sprayed onto herbs and smoked, but chemical content varies wildly.

**Q & A:**

1. *Q:* Why are synthetic cannabinoids more dangerous than natural marijuana?  
   *A:* Because their chemical makeup is unregulated, often much stronger, and can cause severe unpredictable effects.
2. *Q:* What are some common street names?  
   *A:* K2, Spice, Black Mamba, Scooby Snax.
3. *Q:* True or False: Synthetic cannabinoids are "legal marijuana."  
   *A:* False — they are not safe, often illegal, and far more dangerous.

**Takeaway:**  
If a product is labeled "not for human consumption" but sold to smoke, it’s a red flag.

**Lesson 2: Synthetic Cathinones ("Bath Salts")**

**Overview:**

* Stimulants chemically similar to amphetamines.
* Cause paranoia, hallucinations, violent behavior, high blood pressure, and even death.
* Often sold in small foil or plastic packages labeled “bath salts,” “plant food,” or “research chemicals.”

**Q & A:**

1. *Q:* What drug effects are synthetic cathinones often compared to?  
   *A:* Cocaine, meth, or MDMA.
2. *Q:* Why are “bath salts” misleading?  
   *A:* They’re not actual bath products — it’s a disguise for dangerous stimulants.
3. *Q:* Name two physical symptoms from use.  
   *A:* Increased heart rate, high blood pressure, chest pain, kidney failure.

**Takeaway:**  
The unpredictable strength makes them especially dangerous — a small dose can be life-threatening.

**Lesson 3: Synthetic Hallucinogens (NBOMe, 2C Drugs)**

**Overview:**

* Lab-made hallucinogens, often mimicking LSD or mescaline.
* Can cause extreme hallucinations, aggression, seizures, and death.
* NBOMe is often sold on blotter paper like LSD but far more toxic.

**Q & A:**

1. *Q:* How are NBOMe and LSD similar in appearance?  
   *A:* Both can be on blotter paper with colorful designs.
2. *Q:* Why is NBOMe riskier than LSD?  
   *A:* It is much more potent — even a tiny dose can cause overdose.
3. *Q:* Name one mental effect.  
   *A:* Paranoia, extreme hallucinations, or violent outbursts.

**Takeaway:**  
"One hit can kill" is a reality with synthetic hallucinogens due to potency.

**Lesson 4: Designer Opioids (Fentanyl & Analogues)**

**Overview:**

* Synthetic opioids, far stronger than heroin or morphine.
* Fentanyl is 50–100x more potent than morphine.
* Often mixed with heroin, cocaine, or pills without the user’s knowledge.

**Q & A:**

1. *Q:* Why is fentanyl especially dangerous?  
   *A:* Just 2mg can be lethal — an amount smaller than a grain of salt.
2. *Q:* What are common signs of opioid overdose?  
   *A:* Slow/shallow breathing, blue lips, unconsciousness.
3. *Q:* What life-saving medication can reverse fentanyl overdose?  
   *A:* Naloxone (Narcan).

**Takeaway:**  
Always treat unknown powders/pills as potentially laced with fentanyl.

**Lesson 5: Synthetic Stimulants (Amphetamine-like "study drugs")**

**Overview:**

* Includes methamphetamine analogs and illegally produced stimulants.
* Often marketed as “smart drugs” or “energy boosters.”
* Can cause rapid heart rate, stroke, paranoia, and addiction.

**Q & A:**

1. *Q:* What are some short-term effects?  
   *A:* Euphoria, alertness, insomnia, loss of appetite.
2. *Q:* What long-term risks exist?  
   *A:* Addiction, heart problems, memory loss, severe anxiety.
3. *Q:* True or False: Prescription stimulants like Adderall are safe if not prescribed to you.  
   *A:* False — misuse can be dangerous and illegal.

**Takeaway:**  
Not all “study pills” are safe — many are synthetic drugs with hidden dangers.

**Synthetic Drugs Awareness – Quick Lessons**

**Lesson 1: Synthetic Cannabinoids ("K2," "Spice")**

* Fake marijuana, sprayed with dangerous chemicals.
* Can cause paranoia, seizures, kidney damage, even death.

**Q & A:**

* *Q:* Why are they more dangerous than marijuana?  
  *A:* They’re unregulated and unpredictable.
* *Q:* Street names?  
  *A:* K2, Spice, Black Mamba.
* *Q:* True or False: They are “safe” marijuana.  
  *A:* False.

**Takeaway:** If it says “not for human consumption,” it’s a red flag.

**Lesson 2: Synthetic Cathinones ("Bath Salts")**

* Stimulants like cocaine or meth, sold as “bath salts” or “plant food.”
* Can cause hallucinations, violent behavior, heart failure.

**Q & A:**

* *Q:* What drug effects do they mimic?  
  *A:* Cocaine, meth, or MDMA.
* *Q:* Why are they called “bath salts”?  
  *A:* A disguise — not real bath products.
* *Q:* Name one symptom.  
  *A:* Fast heartbeat, paranoia, kidney failure.

**Takeaway:** A tiny dose can be deadly.

**Lesson 3: Synthetic Hallucinogens (NBOMe, 2C Drugs)**

* Fake LSD-type drugs, but far more toxic.
* Can cause extreme hallucinations, aggression, or seizures.

**Q & A:**

* *Q:* How do they look like LSD?  
  *A:* On colorful blotter paper.
* *Q:* Why are they riskier?  
  *A:* Tiny doses can cause overdose.
* *Q:* One mental effect?  
  *A:* Paranoia or violent outbursts.

**Takeaway:** “One hit can kill.”

**Lesson 4: Designer Opioids (Fentanyl & analogues)**

* 50–100x stronger than morphine.
* Often mixed into heroin, cocaine, or fake pills.

**Q & A:**

* *Q:* Why is fentanyl dangerous?  
  *A:* Even 2mg can kill.
* *Q:* Signs of overdose?  
  *A:* Slow breathing, blue lips, unconsciousness.
* *Q:* What can reverse overdose?  
  *A:* Naloxone (Narcan).

**Takeaway:** Any unknown pill/powder could contain fentanyl.

**Lesson 5: Synthetic Stimulants ("Study Pills")**

* Fake “energy boosters” or unprescribed Adderall-like drugs.
* Cause insomnia, paranoia, heart problems, addiction.

**Q & A:**

* *Q:* Short-term effects?  
  *A:* Alertness, euphoria, no appetite.
* *Q:* Long-term risks?  
  *A:* Heart damage, addiction, anxiety.
* *Q:* True or False: Prescription pills are safe to share.  
  *A:* False.

**Takeaway:** “Study pills” can be just as risky as street drugs.