Protect your Gmail account with a security key
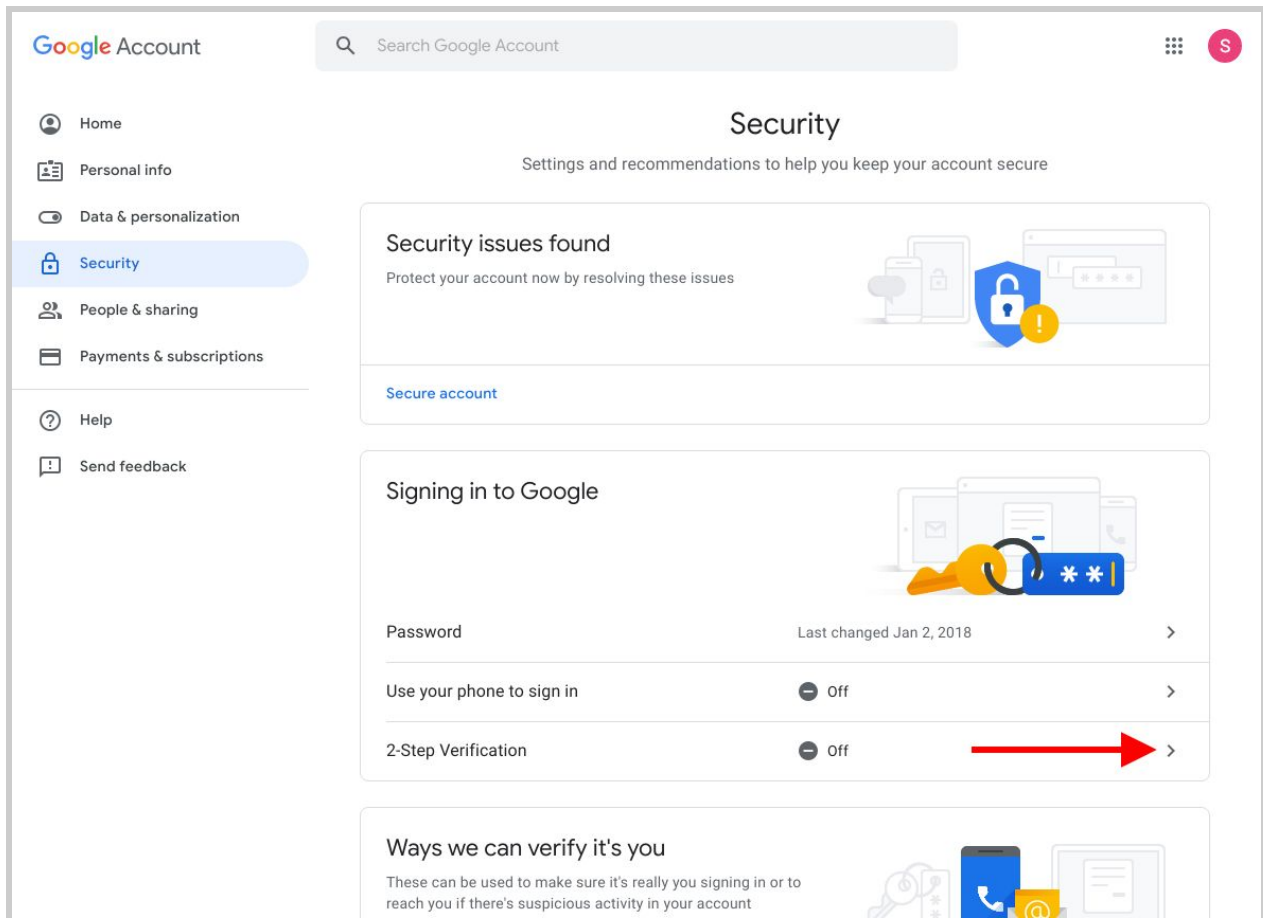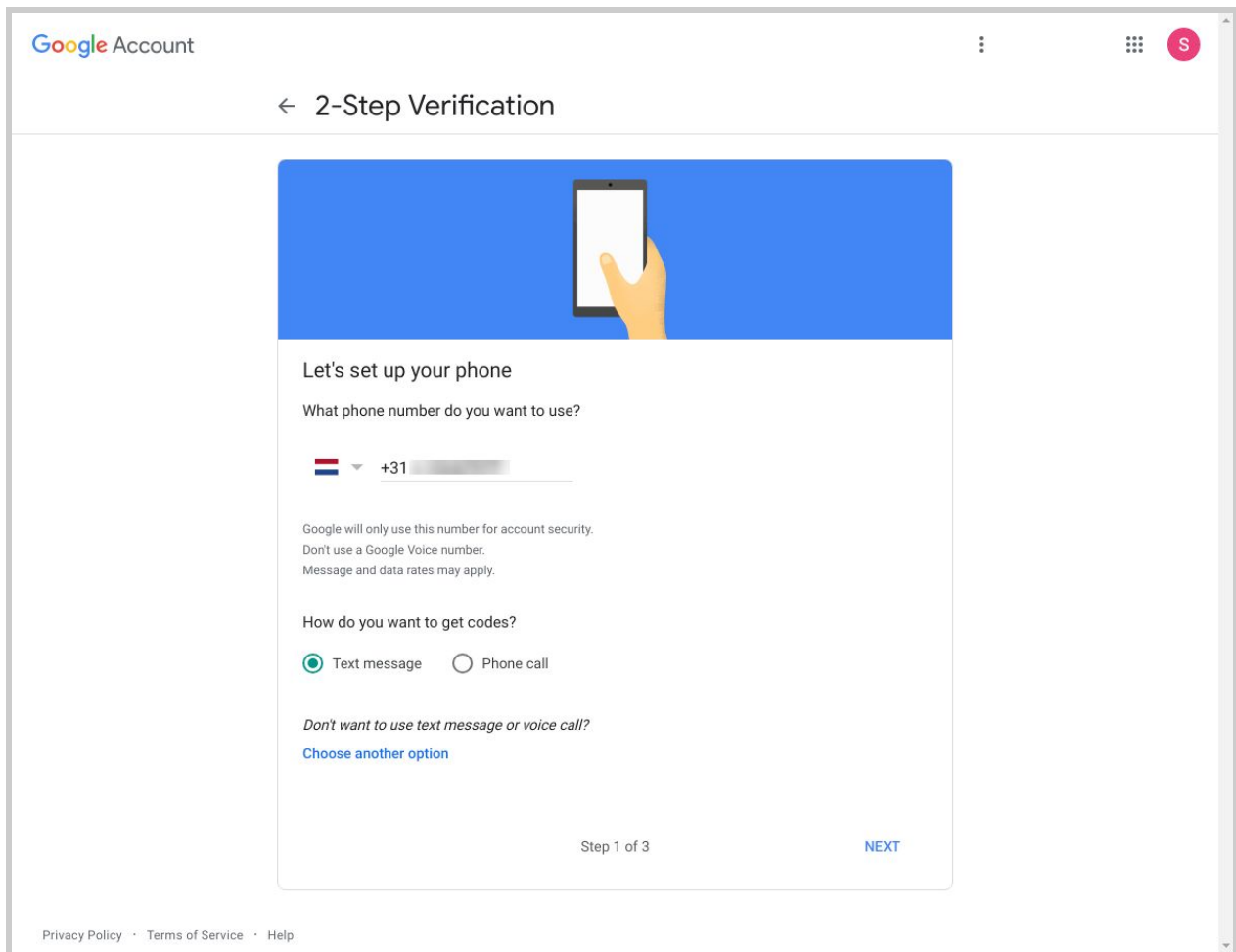
1/ Go to security.google.com (login to your account if prompted)
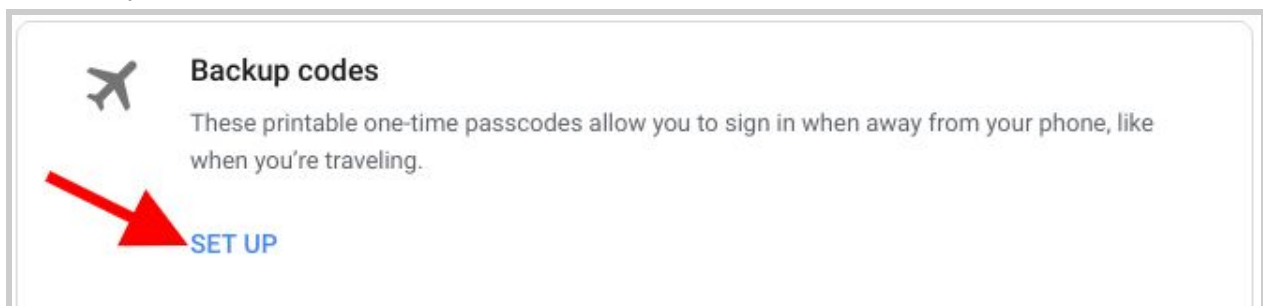2/ Click on "2-Step Verification"

3/ Follow instructions to turn 2-Step Verification. You will have to provide a mobile phone number where you can receive a one-time SMS text message with a verification code.
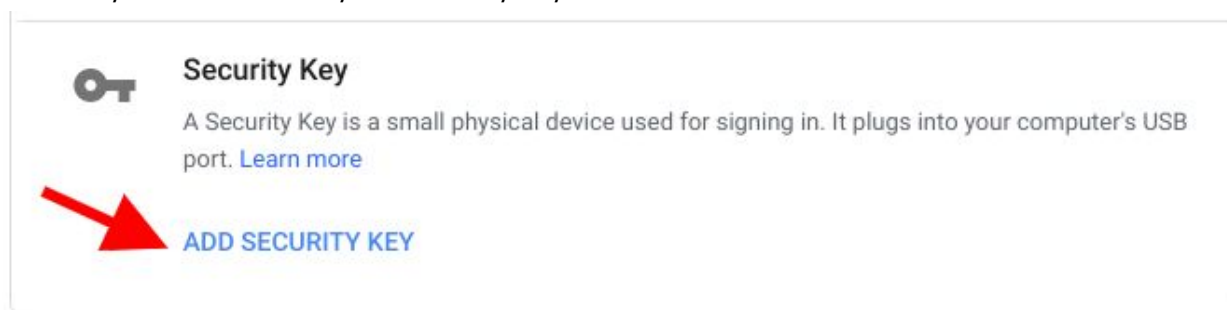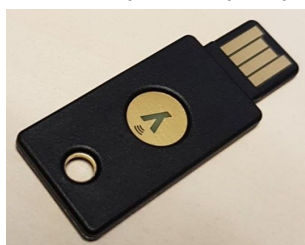

4/ When 2-Step Verification is turned on, the first thing you want to do is set up backup codes. These are one-time short codes that will allow you to regain access to your account in case you lose your key. Click on setup and keep the codes in a safe place (piece of paper inside of your wallet, inside a safe, with a trusted relative, etc.)

5/ Now, you can activate your security key: Click on "ADD SECURITY KEY"

6/ Insert your key in your computer's USB port and follow the instructions on the screen:

7/ You can name your key for greater security

8/ From now on, you will need to insert your key in your computer and input your password before you can access your Gmail account.

If you ever lose access to your key or if it is compromised, the only way to get back access to your account is through your backup codes. Keep them in a safe and separate space.