

Fake News

with Britannica



- 1 Know the **meaning** of ‘fake news’
- 2 Understand the **importance** of **knowing the difference between** what is fake news and what is real news
- 3 Be able to **identify** what is **fake news** and what is **real news**



Discuss

“It must be true. I saw it on the internet.”



Facebook flags 50 million items of misleading coronavirus content

Since the coronavirus outbreak, these are just some of the headlines that have emerged.

NOW SHOPS TO RATION FOOD
STAY AT HOME IF YOU HAVE A COLD

VIRUS COULD HIT 80% OF SCOTS
 Chief medic warns of worst-case scenario: out of 5 infected and 250,000 in hospital



Health experts criticise NHS advice to take ibuprofen for Covid-19

Professor Warns New Coronavirus Has Same Kill Rate as the Spanish Flu

Time running out to contain coronavirus, experts warn

But what is reliable?

With someone at home, discuss what you think 'fake news' means and write down your own definition.

Fake

News

news

Definition

Fake news is news or stories on the internet that are not true. (BBC Newsround, 2019)

There are **two kinds** of fake news:

1. False stories that are **deliberately published or sent around**, in order to make people believe something untrue or to get lots of people to visit a website. These are deliberate lies that are put online, even though the person writing them knows that they are made up.
2. Stories that **may have some truth to them, but they're not completely accurate**. This is because the people writing them - for example, journalists or bloggers - don't check *all* of the facts before publishing the story, or they might exaggerate some of it.



Fake News: Example

Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President!

Pope Francis has condemned disinformation as "probably the greatest damage that the media can do".

His comments come amid warnings of a "fake news" crisis in online media following last month's US elections.

The Pope himself fell victim to a fake news story, which falsely reported his endorsement of Donald Trump.



Discuss

Why is it bad that this fake news was published?



How to Look Out for Fake News: Tips

1. **Be a detective.** Start by asking some basic questions: Is this story making me angry? Am I hoping this story is true? (Those are signs the story is trying to play into people's confirmation bias.) Is the story, or the home page of the publication, trying to sell anything? (If so, this story really may be an ad.) Does the story use all capital letters or a lot of exclamation points? Can you find the news anywhere else?
2. **Know your “news neighbourhood”.** People should think about where they found each story they read. If someone shared a story with you on social media, do you know where it was published first? Is it from a talk-radio show? A gossip site? An online newspaper? Knowing where the story came from will help you understand what its goal is.
3. **Analyse the pictures.** A photo is often the first thing that draws you to a story so don't forget to ask critical questions about images, Baker says. Is the photo related to the news story it's attached to? Why is it there? What was the photographer trying to communicate? What angle was the photo taken from?
4. **Use professional tools.** If you can't find the answers to these questions, search for your story on fact-checking sites such as Snopes.com, FactCheck.org or PolitiFact.com to see if it's been reported as fake.



Writing Task

Based on what you have learnt, write an **article** for your **school newspaper** thinking about why it is important to know the difference between fake news and real news.

You can include:

- ✓ what they mean
- ✓ examples
- ✓ why it is important to be critical of what we see.

Never Stop Learning!

Watch:

[Fake News: Propaganda](#)

[How to spot a fake video](#)

Read:

[Fake News: How Not to Fall for it](#)

[Fake news: What is it? And how to spot it](#)

