

Fake News



Fake news is written and published to look like **authentic** news. It is made up and not true and can be used for **propaganda**. It is written to interest or shock people enough that they will want to read it further and believe it.

Fake news websites and channels push their fake news stories to try and mislead viewers. They want to spread incorrect information through social media networks and word-of-mouth.

Types of Fake News

Some news articles have misleading headlines. They are written to grab the reader's attention but do not match what is written in the article.

Clickbait is used online and encourages viewers to click onto other links that will take them to other pages or advertisements.

Journalism can also be a source of misleading information when the facts and information have not been researched and checked correctly before being published.

Propaganda is a type of fake news where a person or group is trying to promote one side of an argument or opinion. This is usually seen in politics.

Satire stories are written about people or an event for entertainment and are mostly not true. They are more commonly found on social media and websites. Unfortunately, sometimes people read these stories and believe them because they do not realise they are made up.



Fake News and Social Media

Anyone can share information online, whether it is true or not. This is especially the case with social media, making it one of the most common ways of publishing fake news today. Fake accounts or names can be used to hide who is creating the fake news, pages and clickbait advertisements. Lots of newspapers and channels have social media pages which make it harder to know what is fake news or not.



How to Spot Fake News

When using social media, reading news articles or researching on the internet, you need to use critical thinking skills to figure out if it is fake news or not. If it sounds amazing or shocking, there's a high chance it is fake news.

Here are some tips to help decide if something is true or not:

- Check where a news story has come from. Is it a well-known news site or a website you can trust?
- If you are researching, it is always a good idea to double-check the facts you read with a different source.
- If it is an opinion piece of writing, check who wrote it. If it has political content, is it just showing one side from a political party?
- If it is a news article, does it have a journalists' name on it? Does it have a recent date on it?
- Check the spelling and grammar of advertisements and stories. If you spot some errors, this is a sign that it is probably fake news.
- Read stories about the same topic from other sources.
- Be careful when looking at photo images used in fake news stories or advertisements. Photos can easily be changed through software programmes. You can always do an internet search on the photo to see where it came from.



Glossary:

authentic – Something that is genuine and true.

journalism – The creation of news articles and reports.

propaganda – Misleading information used to promote a certain point of view.

satire – A genre of literature that uses wit, irony and sarcasm to criticise someone or something.

Questions

1. What is a clue that a news story **is** fake news? Tick **one**.

- ☐ It is on a well-known website.
- ☐ It has a journalists' name on it.
- ☐ It has spelling and grammar errors.
- ☐ The same story is on other news websites.

2. Draw three lines and match the type of fake news with its definition.

clickbait

The headline does not match the content of the article.

satire

Viewers are encouraged to click onto other links and pages.

misleading headlines

Humorous entertaining stories that have been made up about people or events.

3. Find and copy **one** word that means the same as **genuine**.

4. Fill in the missing word.

It is written to interest or _____ people enough that they will want to read it further and believe it.

5. What is the type of fake news commonly found in politics?

6. In your own words, explain what fake news is.

7. Explain why it is important to use multiple sources when you are researching a topic.

8. Can you always believe photos? Explain your answer.
