

How to spot FAKE NEWS

Reading, listening to and watching the news is vital for finding out about what is happening in the UK and around the world. Most of the news we read is produced by news companies we can trust. But sometimes fake news is created to try and trick us or change our opinions.

Here are some tips to work out if a news story is real or fake:



1. Have you heard of the media company before?

Yes No

If you have, then the story is more likely to be true (e.g. *BBC News*, *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail*, *The Times*). Organisations such as Ofcom (ofcom.org.uk), IMPRESS (impress.press) and IPSO (ipso.co.uk) regulate media companies to make sure they don't publish false and misleading news.

2. Does the website URL look real?

Yes No

Most websites end in **.co.uk** or **.com** but fake news websites might end with something that looks different, like **.co.com**

3. Can you find the same news story on a website you trust?

Yes No

A true story will normally be reported by more than one news company.

4. Does the story include quotes from experts or officials?

Yes No

Real news stories are more likely to quote someone who's been interviewed by the journalist and who knows a lot about the topic.

5. Does the story tell you where you can get more information?

Yes No

If it includes weblinks or the names or organisations it is more likely to be true.

6. Do the images have good sources?

Yes No

If the images in the article don't have a trustworthy source (e.g. Getty Images, Reuters, Press Association) or a copyright logo ©, this could be a sign that the image is fake.

7. Do the facts check out?

Yes No

If you're not sure about whether the facts in the news story are true, you can use websites such as **snopes.com** or **fullfact.org** to check.

8. Is the story well written?

Yes No

Is the spelling, grammar and punctuation in the article correct? If a news story has spelling mistakes, bad grammar or no date, this could be a sign it is fake.

If the answer to any of these questions is **NO**, you might want to speak to a trusted adult before believing the story or sharing it with somebody else.