Fake News

*I can locate the answers to literal questions “right there” in the text.*

Fake news is written and to look like real news. It is made up and not true. 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.

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. Clickbait is a type of advertisement used online. It can be in the form of a news article where the headline encourages the viewer to click into it but the content is more of an advertisement. It can also encourage viewers to click onto links that take them to other pages or advertisements. Lots of newspapers and channels have social media pages which make it harder to know what fake news is or not. When using social media, reading news articles or researching on the internet, you need to think carefully 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.

1. Why is fake news written?

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1. Who can share fake news?

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1. Fill in the missing word. It is written to interest or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_people enough that they will want to read it further and believe it.
2. Can you describe what the term ‘clickbait’ means?
3. How can people hide who is writing the fake news accounts?

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1. Name a way you can check if news is fake.