

Fake News



Fake news is false information or **propaganda** that has been written and published to look like **authentic** news. It is also known as **hoax** news. It is written to initially interest or shock people so they will look into it further.

Fake news websites and channels push their content in an attempt to mislead viewers. They aim to spread untrue information through social media networks and word-of-mouth.

Types of Fake News

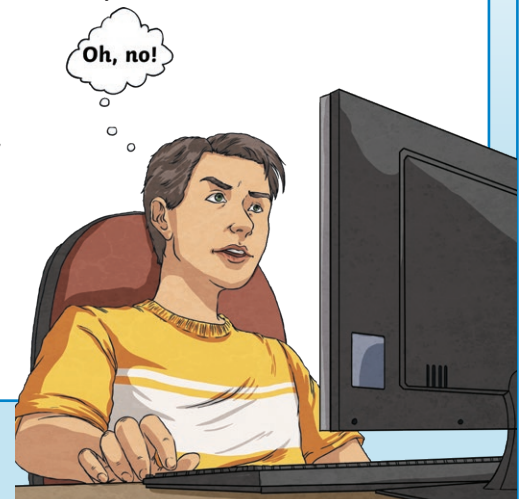
Sometimes misleading headlines are given to news articles to attract the readers' attention so they will continue to read the article. But the headline does not match the content of the article.

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.

Sometimes **journalism** can be a source of misleading information when the facts and information they are providing have not been correctly researched or checked before being published.

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

Satire stories are written purely for entertainment purposes and are mostly not true. They are usually written about people or a recent event. These stories used to be written for newspapers and magazines but are more commonly found on social media and websites. Unfortunately, a reader might not regularly follow the writer and realize the text is satire, therefore they believe it's true.



Fake News and Social Media

Today, social media is one of the main ways fake news is being delivered. Information can be created and shared online by anyone, whether it is true or not. This is especially the case with social media sites where fake accounts, names and domains can easily be created by those who create fake news, pages and clickbait advertisements. Many newspapers and news channels have social media pages, making it difficult for viewers to decide what may be fake news or authentic news.

Fake News and Social Media

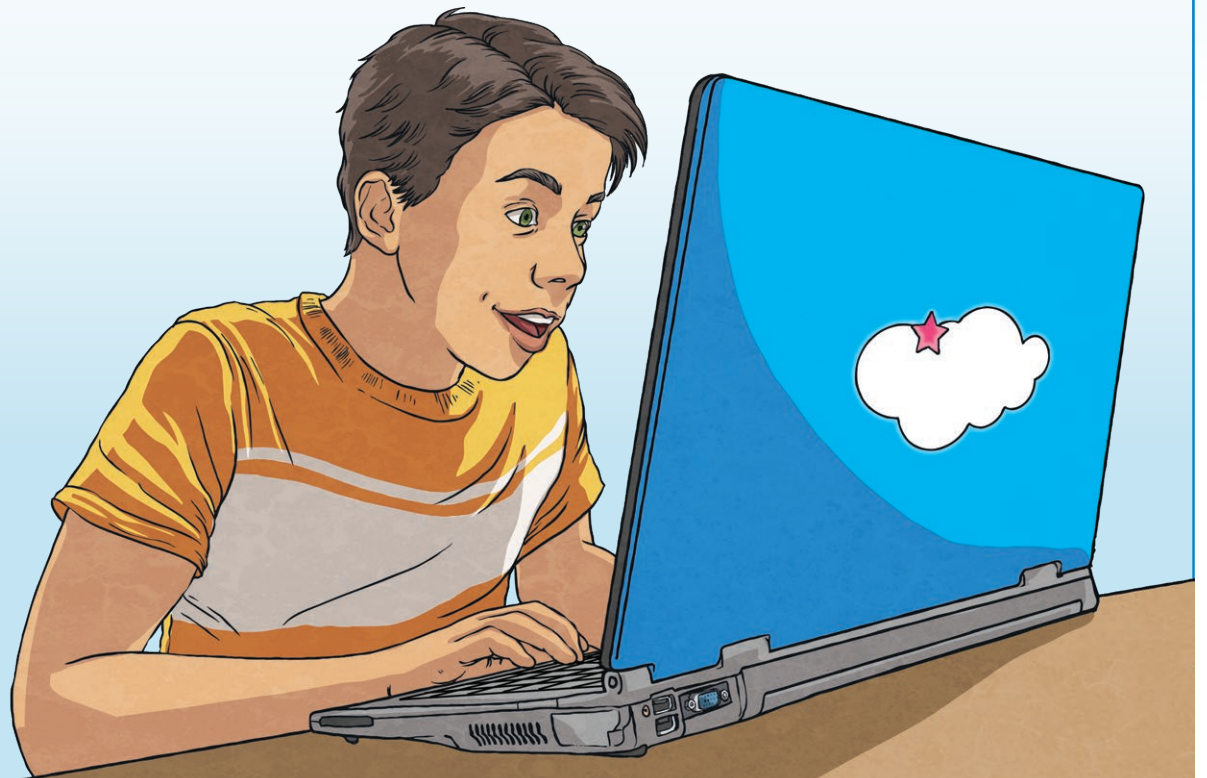
When you are using social media, reading news articles or researching on the internet, you need to use critical thinking skills to decide if something is fake news or not. If it sounds really amazing or really shocks you, it could be fake news.

Here are some tips to help decide if what you are reading is true or fake:

- Check the source of a news article. Has it come from a genuine news site or website that you can trust?
- If you are carrying out research, it is always a good idea to double-check the facts from different sources.
- Is it an opinionated article or story? Does it have political content and is it just showing one side from a political party?
- Always check news articles have a journalist's name on them. Does it have a recent date on it? If the date is old, it might not be as relevant anymore.
- Does it look professional? Check the spelling and grammar of advertisements and stories. If you spot errors for some of these, it is a possibility that it is fake news.
- Read stories about the same content from other sources to confirm what you have read or to gather different viewpoints.
- Be careful when you come across photo images that may be used in fake news stories or advertisements. Remember that photos can easily be changed through software programs. You can always do an internet search to check the source of photos that are used.

Glossary:

- **authentic** - Something that is genuine and true.
- **hoax** - Something fake or untrue that is presented as real or 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 type of fake news is humorous and has untrue stories about people or events? Tick one.

- clickbait
- journalism
- propaganda
- satire

2. Draw four lines to match the clue to if it is fake news or genuine news.

It is from a trusted news outlet.	Fake news
It has spelling and grammatical errors.	Genuine news
The headline doesn't match the story.	Fake news
It is named by the person that wrote it.	Genuine news

3. What is the title of a person who writes news stories?

4. What type of fake news is opinionated and shows one side?

5. Fill in the missing words.

They aim to _____ untrue information through social media _____ and word-of-_____ .

6. Summarize what fake news is.

7. In your own words, explain what clickbait is.

8. Name three news outlets that you can trust.

9. Why do creators of fake news want to interest and shock the viewer?

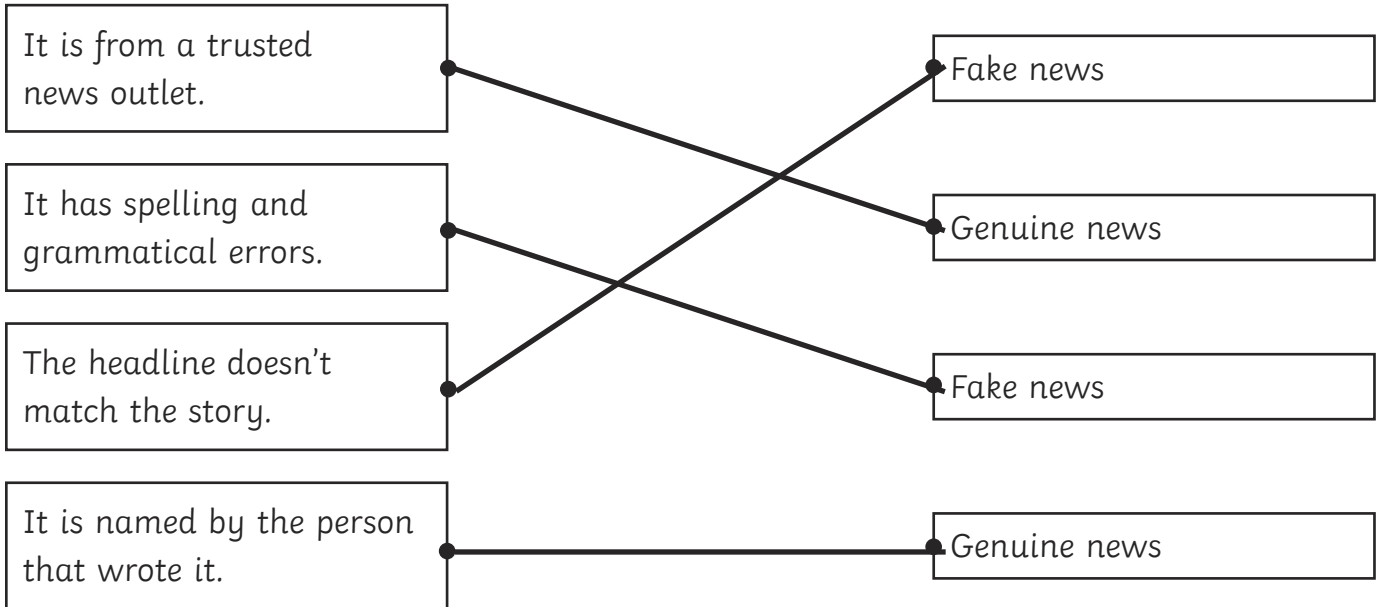
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Answers

1. What type of fake news is humorous and has untrue stories about people or events? Tick one.

- clickbait
- journalism
- propaganda
- satire**

2. Draw four lines to match the clue to if it is fake news or genuine news.



3. What is the title of a person who writes news stories?

journalist

4. What type of fake news is opinionated and shows one side?

propaganda

5. Fill in the missing words.

They aim to spread untrue information through social media networks and word-of-mouth.

6. Summarize what fake news is.

Students' own responses, such as; is false news; untrue; propaganda; hoax news; is written to interest and shock people; attempts to mislead people; aims to spread untrue information.

7. In your own words, explain what clickbait is.

Students' own responses, such as; 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.

8. Name three news outlets that you can trust.

Students' own responses, such as; any well-known newspapers, radio stations or TV news programs.

9. Why do creators of fake news want to interest and shock the viewer?

Students' own responses, such as; so the viewer reads further into the story; so viewers click further into the pages.