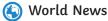# Can You Spot the Fake News from the Real News?

What is fake news?

- Fake news is news which is fake, not true or made up. It works by shocking people into reading it.

- Fake news is often designed to get people's attention and get as many readers as possible.

How good are you at spotting real news from fake? We've got three news stories here but not all of them are real! Can you spot the fake news from the real news?

Photo: Can you spot the fake news?

Woman Eating Dog Biscuits

An 82-year-old woman from somewhere in England, has been mistakenly snacking on dog biscuits for over 11 years, according to my friends.

"She thought the bone shape was just a fun design!" said a neighbour.

The jokes not just on her, though. "Her snacks have done particularly well at the local school bake sale," someone revealed!

Sweet Potatoes Help You Drive

A video making fun of fake news went viral last month. But, it appears some people may have mistaken it for real news as sales of sweet potatoes soar.

The video claimed that putting lots and lots of sweet potato peelings in your socks can make you a better driver.

Although clearly a joke, supermarkets have reported a huge increase in sweet potatoes sales. The filmmakers are now worried that their video has now actually become fake news ... and that some people now have very smelly socks!

Pull Over Rover

In March 2020, a 51-year-old man from Washington state, USA, led police on a high-speed chase. It was because he was teaching his dog to drive. The car hit two other vehicles and got up to speeds of 109mph all while the man's favourite pooch sat on his lap.

When the vehicle was eventually stopped, the driver told state troopers he had been trying to teach his pit bull to drive.

"When we took him into custody... he admitted to our troopers that he was trying to teach his dog to drive," State Trooper Heather Axtman told US media.

The man went to jail, the dog... to an animal shelter.

Fake or Real?

So what do you think? Which stories are real and which are fake? Use the information on the sheet to help you work out which stories you can trust and which might just be fake news!

After that, why not write your own fake news story? Remember, fake news wants to get lots of people to read and share it.

Can you make a shocking fake news story that is *nearly* believable?

Questions

1. Tick which story or stories you think are fake.

   ○ Woman Eating Dog Biscuits

   ○ Sweet Potatoes Help You Drive

   ○ Pull Over Rover

2. Why do you think that?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

How Can We Spot Fake News?

• Think about where the news comes from. Is it from a news source you can trust? What could their biases be?

• Has the story been covered by other trusted news sources?

• Is the story from social media? Sometimes, images and stories can get shared on social media even if they're not true!

• Check the 'facts' in the story using trusted sources.

• Check the date! Old news stories might not be relevant any more.

• If it sounds too shocking to be true, it probably is.

• Is it a joke? Some websites create fake news, or satire to be funny.

• Does the story use quotes? Are the quotes from trusted figures?

• How does the story make you feel? Some fake news stories are designed to make you angry so you are more likely to share them.

What is Fake News?

• Fake News is exactly what it says — news that is fake, not true or made up. It works by shocking people into reading it, just like gossip.

• Fake news is designed to get people's attention; they want as many readers as possible. This is so they can make money through advertising, make a person, argument or cause look better or simply trick people.

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Answers

1. Tick which story or stories you think are fake.

   ☑ **Woman Eating Dog Biscuits**
   ☑ **Sweet Potatoes Help You Drive**
   ◯ Early Learner Driver

2. Why do you think that?

   Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the points from the section titled 'How Can We Spot Fake News', e.g. I think Woman Eating Dog Biscuits and Sweet Potatoes stories are fake because they seem to shocking to be true. Someone would have noticed they were eating dog biscuits. Also, the sweet potatoes story doesn't have any quotes. The quotes for the dog biscuits story did not give much information about who said them.

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