

Video zone: Five ways to spot fake news – exercises

Can you spot fake news? Watch this video from Common Sense Media to learn how to check out news to see if it's true or not. It's not always easy to tell!

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|-----------------------|----|--|
| 1..... dot | a. | the web address that identifies a particular page on the internet (the letters stand for Uniform Resource Locator) |
| 2..... URL | b. | a small black point used to separate parts of an internet address (.) |
| 3..... layout | c. | to analyse part by part |
| 4..... a red flag | d. | the way something is displayed, for example the design of text and pictures on a page |
| 5..... suspicious | e. | a warning sign |
| 6..... to dissect | f. | to investigate more thoroughly |
| 7..... to dig deeper | g. | to check information from various different sources to see if it is true |
| 8..... to cross-check | h. | distrustful, inclined to believe something is wrong |

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write the words in the correct order to make tips from the video.

- Look unusual URLs. for
.....
- If they legitimate news sites. end with chances are .com.co, they aren't
.....
- look layout and Dissect errors. the for grammatical
.....
- out and who the article the site. who wrote Find supports
.....

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5. confirm sites to Use fact-checking information.

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6. news outlets See credible whether other similar news. are reporting

.....

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | An unusual URL can be a warning sign. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | You should be suspicious of grammar mistakes. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | You should ignore the choice of images. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | You should register to find out who writes and supports the site. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | You should see if news outlets you trust are reporting the same story. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | If the same picture appears in a different context on other websites, it's a good sign. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

Discussion

Do you always check whether news you read online is true or not?

Did you learn anything new from these tips?