Reading skills practice: The rise of fake news

1. Match the headings with the correct paragraph and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1........ Paragraph　　　　　　**a.** Why fake news is hard to stop

2........ Paragraph　　　　　　**b.** How we can try and control fake news

3........ Paragraph　　　　　　**c.** Motives for creating fake news

4........ Paragraph　　　　　　**d.** The financial rewards of fake news

5........ Paragraph　　　　　　**e.** An example of a fake news story

6........ Not used　　　　　　 **f.** How a fake news story can grow

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice. Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. **Why did Elgar Welch go to the pizzeria?**

　a. He was trying to commit robbery.

　b. He hated all supporters of Hillary Clinton.

　c. He was working as a private investigator and investigating a crime.

　d. He had become concerned after reading an untrue news story.

2. **Why did many people not believe The Washington Post and The New York Times when they denounced the pizzeria story?**

　a. They checked the facts and found that the articles were incorrect.

　b. They didn't trust anybody.

　c. They thought the newspapers had a political agenda.

　d. They thought the newspapers had not researched the story carefully enough.

3. **Who is Steven Smith?**

　a. a local politician from Georgia

　b. a journalist on The New York Times

　c. a member of the US House of Representatives

　d. a fictitious person, created to attack the media

4. **Which reason for the difficulty of controlling fake news stories is not given in the article?**

　a. Many people don't read the mainstream media.

　b. Online media platforms don't check stories before publishing them.

　c. People are skeptical of the mainstream media.

　d. Fake news stories can easily switch to other websites and platforms if caught.

5. **Which type of motivation for the creation of fake news is not given?**

    a. It's a way of making money from people who pay to read the stories.

    b. It's a way of commenting on current affairs.

    c. It's a way of attacking your political opponents.

    d. It's a form of entertainment.

6. **How does the author feel about stopping fake news spreading?**

    a. cautiously optimistic

    b. doubtful

    c. positive

    d. pessimistic