



SEEING IS BELIEVING, OR IS IT?

I “Seeing is believing” is a well-known saying in English. It suggests that what we see is what we believe to be true. But what happens if we can’t trust our eyes, and we are no longer sure if what we see is real or fake?

II Welcome to the world of fake videos. These videos show people doing or saying things that they never did or said. They first started to appear online in 2018. So far, most people have made these fake videos as a joke and think it is funny to embarrass people. However, some have darker motives.

III “Fake videos can indeed cause considerable damage,” says James Harrison, the owner of a large company in Ohio, USA. His problems started after an online interview in which he talked about his successful business. Then, a few days later, Harrison started getting phone calls from angry customers. They wanted to cancel their orders and said that they did not want to do business with him anymore. At first, Harrison did not understand why his customers were so upset, but then he watched his video again. “It was shocking,” he said. “I saw myself talking, but someone had put different words into my mouth. So, rather than talking about my company’s success, I was talking about its financial difficulties.”

IV Unfortunately for Harrison and millions of others, the quality of these fake videos is improving all the time. “It is actually worrying,” says computer expert Dan Ashton. Nevertheless, Ashton remains positive. “The world of technology is moving fast forward,” he says. “I’m sure we’ll eventually be able to identify these videos as soon as they appear online.” But until then, he recommends that we look out and be careful. “Ask questions and check other sources,” he suggests. “And remember, not everything you read or see is necessarily true.”

B Answer the questions.

1. What does the saying “seeing is believing” mean? (paragraph I)

ANSWER:

2. Why do people make fake videos? Give ONE reason. (paragraph II)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Because

3. PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

What do we learn about James Harrison? (paragraph III)

- (i) He made many fake videos.
..... (ii) He had an online interview.
..... (iii) He caused a lot of damage.
..... (iv) He owns a successful company.
..... (v) He thought the fake video was funny.
..... (vi) He has financial difficulties.

4. We can understand from paragraph III that Harrison’s customers (–).

- (i) didn’t cancel their orders
(ii) wanted to help Harrison
(iii) enjoyed watching Harrison’s video
(iv) believed that Harrison’s company had problems

5. According to James Harrison, the video was “shocking”. (paragraph III)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Because

6. What problem is raised in paragraph IV?

ANSWER:

7. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (paragraph IV)

Ashton believes that future technology will make it possible to

8. According to paragraph IV, how can we find out if a video is real or fake?

ANSWER:

9. Another title for this article could be (–).

- (i) Moving Fast Forward
(ii) Fake Videos Are Here to Stay
(iii) Stay Positive
(iv) Don’t Believe Everything You See