

Schools to Teach about Fake News, Government Says

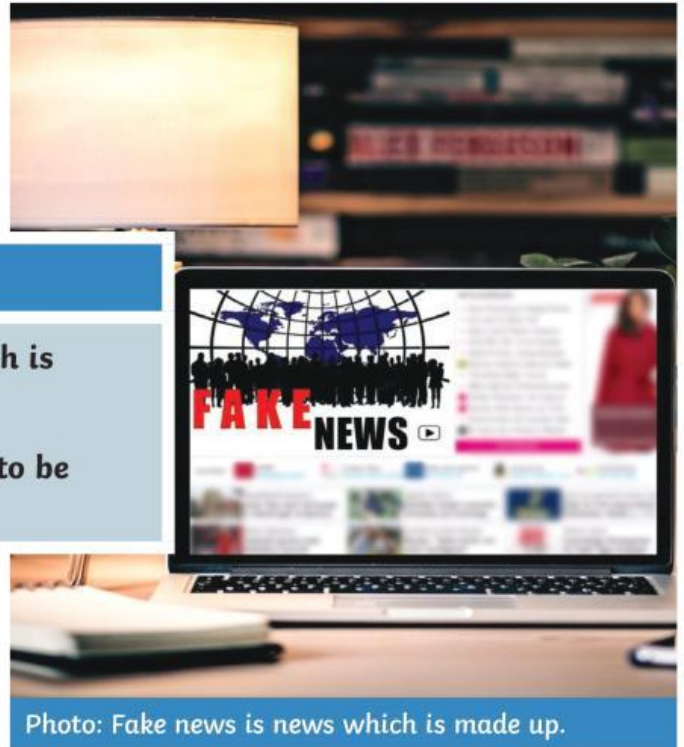


Photo: Fake news is news which is made up.

What is fake news?

- Fake news is news you might see online which is made up and not true.
- The government want children to learn how to be critical about what they read online.

Can you tell what's fake news and what's real? If you struggle, help could be on its way! The government has said that schools will teach children about fake news from 2020.

Have you ever seen a story online which didn't quite seem believable? It's possible you might have come across some fake news.

Fake news is, quite simply, news which isn't true. While everyone, including **journalists**, can make mistakes, fake news usually refers to stories which are deliberately made up.

Sometimes this can come from **satire** or joke websites but there are other reasons why fake news could be created.

Sometimes it is made to make lots of money through advertising. Other times it is designed to make an argument, cause or person look better. Sometimes, it's simply created to trick people!

Fake news often works by shocking people into reading it, just like gossip. Often, the more outrageous a story, the more likely it is to spread!

Like gossip, fake news can cause harm. People can get angry over something which isn't true and the government worries that it could cause people to distrust important organisations.

The government have said that they want children to learn how to be **critical** about what they see and read, especially on the internet. They believe this will help people spot fake news.

In primary schools, this will include learning

about how we can understand the information we see online and finding ways to decide whether it can be trusted.

So how can we work out what is fake and what is real? There's no certain way — even newspapers can get caught out!

We can, however, think about where the news is coming from. Is it a trusted news source? What might its **bias** be?

We can also check the news story to make sure it has been reported on other trusted news channels, newspapers and websites.

Remember, if a news story sounds too shocking to be true, it probably is!

Glossary

journalists	A person who writes the news.
satire	Making fun of the news or politics.
critical	Thinking deeply and carefully about something in detail.
bias	An unfair preference for or against one group or person.

Questions

1. Find a word in the opening paragraph which means having difficulty with something.

2. Find three reasons why fake news might be created.

1.

2.

3.

3. 'Often, the more outrageous a story, the more likely it is to spread!'

Tick the word which is closest in meaning to 'outrageous' in this sentence.

- ☐ wicked
- ☐ surprising
- ☐ bold
- ☐ angry

4. Why might a story being reported on more than one trusted news stories make it more reliable?

5. Summarise this news story in 20 words or fewer.

6. Draw lines to match each section of the story with the correct quotation from the text.

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Spotting fake news

So how can we work out what is fake and what is real?

Plans to teach fake news.

'Fake news is, quite simply, news which isn't true.'