

UNIT 7 READING

1 Read the article and match headings a–d to paragraphs 1–3. There is one extra heading.

- a Fake news
- b A day of fun
- c How to avoid tricks
- d Fish, flour and good luck

1

There's one day of the year when you have to be extra careful not to believe everything people tell you. Even if the information comes from a reliable source. On 1 April, April Fools' Day, people around the world play tricks on each other. The day has a range of names around the world, but many countries share the tradition of playing tricks and having fun on that date! Other countries have a similar festival on a different date.

2 ...

In France, children attach a paper fish to their friends' backs. When the person discovers the fish, their friends shout, 'April fish!' Italy shares this tradition, but in Portugal, you might want to wear something white; a popular trick is to throw flour at your friends. Brazilians call 1 April the 'day of lies' and try to get people to believe things that aren't true. And the tradition in Greece is that if you manage to trick someone successfully, it will bring you good luck. In Spain and Mexico, people also play tricks, but on a different date – 28 December, el Día de los Inocentes. One thing that is shared in all these countries is that the victims of the tricks always see the funny side!

3

Because there is a tradition of playing tricks on 1 April, you also have to pay special attention to what you read on that day, as companies, the press, and even public institutions join in the fun. It's really difficult to tell facts from fiction. One year, a burger restaurant in the USA announced a special campaign – they were going to sell new 'left-handed burgers', for left-handed people. Of course, it wasn't true, but the special offer attracted hundreds of consumers who turned up to buy the burgers! Another time, visitors rushed to a zoo in Japan to see its new attraction – a giant penguin – only to find it was a man dressed as the bird! And a London newspaper announced it had found a new way to reduce rubbish in the street; it declared its paper was now safe to eat!

2 Read the article again and choose the correct options.

- 1 The tradition of playing tricks on other people takes place on 1 **April / different dates** around the world.
- 2 **France and Italy / Portugal and Brazil** have similar traditions on 1 April.
- 3 In Greece, people believe you will be lucky if **a trick is played on you / you play a trick on someone**
- 4 A newspaper in London told its readers that they could **eat the newspaper / leave the newspaper on the streets**

3 Answer the questions.

1 What do children in France and Italy do on 1 April?

They try to attach a paper fish to someone's back.

2 What do people try to do in Brazil on 1 April?

3 Why is it a good idea to wear white clothes in Portugal?

4 How do most people around the world react when someone plays a trick on them?

5 Why aren't some of the news sources reliable on 1 April?