

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.

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| 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