

1 Warm-up

FAKE NEWS



- What is fake news?

2 Key words

- Match the words with their definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. facts | a. annoyed because things don't happen how you want them to |
| 2. frustrated | b. an organization formed by people of similar professions to protect the rights of workers |
| 3. accept | c. causing you to feel anxious |
| 4. influence | d. not fake |
| 5. a union | e. something that happened which there is information about |
| 6. worrying | f. to affect how someone behaves |
| 7. real | g. to believe that something is true, especially when it's bad |
| 8. judge | h. to form an opinion after carefully thinking about something |

- You're going to read an article about how students in the U.K. are using fake news in their school work.
- Before you read, put 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each of the statements below, then scan the text on the next page to find out if your answers are correct.

1. Students are creating their own fake news. _____
2. 20 percent of teachers said that their students used fake news as facts in schoolwork. _____
3. Teachers will need to teach children how to tell the difference between real and fake news. _____
4. Students believe that fake news is true, even when their teachers tell them that it's false. _____
5. Websites could get a 50 million euro fine if they don't remove fake news posts. _____
6. Most fake news posts will need to be removed quickly from websites.



Students think fake news is fact and are using it in their schoolwork, say teachers

Teachers are frustrated that students can't accept that some stories on social networks are false, while experts suggest that students need better education about online dangers

- ¹ Students believe that fake news is a fact, and are repeating it in lessons and using it in written work, teachers have warned.
- ² More than a third of teachers say their students have used false information that they found online, according to a survey by a teacher's union.
- ³ The union's general secretary Chris Keates said that the information was "worrying" and it showed that internet companies have a lot of power to influence people's opinions, especially young people.
- ⁴ International education experts are becoming more worried about the situation and say that teachers will need to teach children how to spot fake news.
- ⁵ Others were frustrated that students didn't believe that news they had seen on Facebook and other social media sites was not true, even when the problem was explained to them.
- ⁶ One teacher said that students often thought that fake news sites were real, and also that anything that President Donald Trump said was a fact.
- ⁷ Last week, German officials said they would give fines of up to 50 million euro to social networks if they didn't take down illegal fake news posts.
- ⁸ The new law would give social networks 24 hours to delete or block the content and seven days to concentrate on more complicated cases.
- ⁹ Commenting on the results of the survey, Ms. Keates said that she was worried about the trend, particularly because many young people have never known a world without internet, and are less able to judge whether information that they read online is real or fake.
- ¹⁰ She added that: "It is important for children and young people to be made aware that not everything they see and read online is real."
- ¹¹ She said that teachers are trying to help educate students about using false information, but added that it was important for internet providers and websites to take responsibility for any material that is available, and also to deal with people who misuse their services.
- ¹² Last month, Andreas Schleicher, the director of education and skills at OECD (The Organization of Economic co-operation and Development) said that in the modern age, being able to tell the difference between what is real and what is fake is a critical skill.
- ¹³ He added that: "This is something that we believe schools can do something about."

Adapted from the Independent by Rachel Pells, April 12th, 2017

4 Find the words

■ Find a word or phrase in the text which means ...

1. as shown by (**preposition, P.2**): _____
2. see or notice something (**verb, P.4**): _____
3. remove (**phrasal verb, P.7**): _____
4. stop something from being seen (**verb, P.8**): _____
5. use your time to do something (**phrasal verb, P.8**): _____
6. use something for the wrong purpose (**verb, P.11**): _____
7. take action to solve a problem (**phrasal verb, P.11**): _____
8. very important (**adj. P.12**): _____

5 Internet language

■ Choose the correct words to complete each of the sentences below.

content
posts

internet providers
social media

online
websites

1. Messaging on _____ is a typical way for young people to communicate.
2. If you don't know the answer, find it _____.
3. He wrote several _____ that day about his trip to Mexico.
4. Many _____ can also sell you a TV and phone package.
5. There are a lot of _____ which offer cheap vacation packages.
6. Social networks will have 24 hrs to remove _____ that is illegal.

- Skim read the two websites. Complete the table.
- Go to these links and read them quickly. Make brief notes about the tree and the octopus.

<https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/octopus-tree-of-oregon>

	Habitat	Characteristics	History
Tree Octopus			
Octopus Tree			

- Check the validity of the two websites using the FIVE Ws.
 - Which site is fake? How do you know it's fake?
- Decide if these stories are real or fake news.

1.

**Sharks found in
New York
basement**

2.

**Pizza company
makes heated
letterbox to keep
your delivery hot**

3.

**UK won't take
part in the
Eurovision song
contest from 2019**

4.

**100 year-old fruit
cake discovered
near the South
Pole - and it's
almost edible**

5.

**Blue dogs spotted
in India**

6.

**Polar bears found
on Scottish island**

■ Identify fake news using the FIVE Ws.

WHERE does the information come from?

Look at the URL. Does it look familiar or credible?

Websites with these URLs are usually legitimate: .com, .org, .net, .edu, .gov

Fake websites often have URLs that end with: lo, .com.co. Alternatively, fake URLs are incomplete.

Fake websites have similar names to authentic sites, e.g. Sky Newz (instead of Sky News).

WHEN was the post put online?

What's the date on the post? Is the date real? Is the post recent?

Fake news is often posted on dates which don't exist (e.g. 30 February) or on 1 April (April Fool's Day).

Always check the date. Sometimes the news was posted years ago but is still being circulated as 'news'.

WHO created the information?

Who wrote the article? Who took the photo?

Real photos should always give the name of the person who took them (or explain where they come from).

Look at photos carefully. Could they have been Photoshopped? Check suspicious photos by doing a reverse Google image search.

WHAT does the post or website look like?

Look at the layout. Is the website well presented and carefully organised?

Look at the headline. Is it sensational?

Is there an 'About Us' section with contact information? Are sources given for the information?

Is the spelling and grammar correct?

Genuine websites usually look professional. They usually contain an 'About Us' section, contact information, sources and links to more information.

Check the spelling and grammar. Fake websites often contain mistakes in English.

HOW do you know for certain that it's true?

Check the content again. Does any information seem unlikely? Too good (or too amazing) to be true?

Real news stories should appear in several news outlets, not just the one you're looking at.

Cross-check the information with a credible website to see if you can find the same story!

If you're still not sure, check a site that lists hoaxes and fake news. Is the story listed as fake news? Try: <https://www.snopes.com/> <https://www.hoax-slayer.net/>