Checking information on the Internet

Before watching

1 Complete an ICT expert's advice for checking information on the Internet. Use the words in the box.

check • click • evidence • fact • fiction
investigation • links • source

Has this ever happened to you? You find a website with stories about UFOs, aliens or other supernatural and amazing events. It's really interesting. The question is, is it true? Are you reading about scientific (1) ....., or science (2) .....? You need to do a little (3) ..... to find out. First, (4) ..... who wrote the information. Is it a real person? And where's the information from? Does it come from a scientific (5) ....., with some real (6) ..... to show it's true, or has someone just invented it? And what happens if you (7) ..... on the (8) ..... in the information? Do they take you to a serious website, or another website with similar information? Websites like this are fun, but they aren't based on real life!



While watching

2a 94 Read the sentences. Then watch Jessica's video message for Ryan and complete the information with one or two words.

1 At school, Ryan told Jessica about the discovery of some .....
2 If the discovery is true, Jessica's going to buy Ryan a .....
3 Jessica has found a text about the discovery on .....
4 The text is on a website called the .....
5 She can't find any ..... of the discovery.
6 It's clear that the discovery isn't .....

2b 94 VIDEO SKILLS Read the video skills box. Then watch again. Decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F). Can you correct the false ones?

1 Jessica finds information about Dr Verlag Meyer on the Internet. T / F
2 The text says Dr Verlag Meyer works in a university. T / F
3 Jessica doesn't think that Bermuda really exists. T / F
4 She can't find any photos of when they made the discovery. T / F
5 A link at the website takes you to the person who wrote the text. T / F

VIDEO SKILLS: Following an argument

When someone presents an argument, they give reasons for their opinion. To make a strong argument, people …

1 ask questions, and then answer them.
Is there any evidence? No, there isn't!
2 use questions to say what they really think.
Isn't that photo from a film? (= I think it's from a film.)
3 use extra emphasis.
<u>You</u> said it's true. <u>I</u> say it isn't.
4 use short sentences.
No source. No evidence. Nothing.

3a 94 Watch again and answer the questions.

1 What did Jessica use to help check for information online?
.....
2 What type of things does the website write about?
.....
3 What does she say about the Pyramid of Cheops?
.....
4 What does she say about the source of the text?
.....
5 What's her message for Ryan?
.....

3b Do you think it's completely clear that the discovery was invented? Why/Why not?

After reading

4a Can you think of any similar stories to the discovery of the glass pyramids that you have seen on the Internet, or heard about? Who do you think invents these stories? Why?

4b SKILLS 4 LIFE Invent an Internet hoax deliberately giving false information. Follow these steps.

1 Decide what your article or news story is going to be about. A discovery? A new explanation for something that has happened in the news recently, or in the past?
2 Invent the details of your article or story. Think of names, places, events, dates. Think of information that is going to make your article or news story feel real.
3 Write your article or news story. Then show it to other people. Do they think it's true? Why/Why not?

REFLECT ON IT

On the Internet there are lots of websites and blogs that question the official or scientific explanation for things. Do you think these websites are a positive thing? Why/Why not?

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