8B Fake news

> For most people no news is good news, but for journalists good news is not news.
> *Gloria Borger, US political commentator*

1 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a Talk to a partner.

1 Where do you get your international, national, and local news from?

2 Look at the list below. What kinds of news are you normally interested in?

arts and culture   business   celebrity gossip
crime   the environment   food & drink   health
local / national news   politics   sport   technology
TV and entertainment   the weather   world news

3 What kinds of news headlines, e.g. a death, news about a celebrity, a sports result, might make you want to read the whole article?

4 What stories are in the news at the moment in your country?

b Look at the headlines and photos for two news stories that were reported in the same week. What do you think they are about?

Wine goes blue

Egyptian zoo denies their zebra is a donkey

c 🔊 8.11 Listen to the stories and check. Were you correct?

d Listen again and complete the information.

1 Vindigo wine gets its colour from...
2 The wine is being produced in...because...
3 A bottle of Vindigo costs...
4 Monsieur Le Bail says the wine is ideal for...
5 Mahmoud Sarhan was visiting the zoo when he saw...
6 He was sure it was a donkey because...
7 A vet who looked at the photo said that...
8 The zoo's owner wouldn't accept that...

e Look at two more headlines and photos from the same week's news. With a partner, guess what they are about.

Football fan gets World Cup fever

Shark baby drama

f 🄲 **Communication** Strange, but true **A** p.109 **B** p.113 Read the stories and check, then tell each other what happened.

g Three of the four stories are true and one is fake news. Which one do you think is the fake?

4 VOCABULARY & SPEAKING
the media

a Look at the four headlines. What four categories of news are they?

1 Manager **quits** following shock Cup defeat

2 21-year-old **tipped** to become party leader

3 Reality TV star **to wed** girlfriend after one-week engagement

4 Companies **split** after unsuccessful merger

b Guess the meaning of the **bold** verbs. Then match them to a word or phrase from the list.

is going to marry ▢   is predicted ▢
leaves ▢   separate ▢

c **ⓥ p.161 Vocabulary Bank** The media

d Look at the questions below. Decide if you personally agree or disagree with them. Think of reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Is it ever OK...?
- for journalists to access other people's phones or email accounts
- for the media to publish stories and photos about celebrities' private lives
- for the paparazzi to take photos of well-known people when they are at home or on holiday
- to censor the news
- to publish news articles that aren't completely true

(I think it's perfectly OK for / to...

[I think it can be OK for / to..., depending on the circumstances.

(I don't think it's ever OK for / to...because...

e Work in small groups. Take turns to ask one question. Give your opinion and explain why. Then discuss with the group. What is the majority opinion on each topic?

5 READING

a Read a news report about the Tour de France cycle race. Why was Chris Froome said to be disappointed?

m www.thedailymash.co.uk/sport

Competitors' disappointment over Tour de France route

CYCLISTS have begun to complain that their enjoyment of the Tour has been spoiled by periods of intense uphill cycling. British cyclist Chris Froome said, 'Even though it's called the Tour de France, I don't feel like I'm getting to experience the real France at all. The organizers have planned a route that goes right through some of the hilliest parts of the country, when there are much quicker flat roads we could use. I was hoping we could stop off at a vineyard, or have lunch at an authentic local brasserie, but we're just on our bikes all day. I spent six months doing night courses in French and have barely been able to speak a word, because I pass every French person I meet at 30 mph.'

b Read the article again. At what point did you realize that this is not a serious piece of news? Are there any other features of the article that made you suspicious?

c Now read an article about how to spot fake news. Complete the headings with a word from the list.

addresses   date   fake   images   name   sense   spellings   trust

d Read the article again and answer the questions about each section.

Introduction Why do many online sites publish fake news?
1 Why don't you need to worry about a Category Six hurricane?
2 What was suspicious about the story in the *Denver Guardian*?
3 What was the problem with the URL *ABC.com.co*?
4 What was wrong with the photos of a news report about a terror attack in Brussels?
5 Why does a lot of spelling mistakes in a news article mean that it might be fake?
6 How would you know that the Twitter handle @WarrenBuffet was fake?
7 Why might an emotionally disturbing image with a news story be a telltale sign?
8 What should you do before making an important decision based on online information?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 THE LANGUAGE OF HEADLINES

🔍 **The language of headlines**
Newspaper headlines, especially in tabloids*, often use short snappy words. These words use up less space and are more emotive, which helps to sell newspapers.

*newspapers with smaller pages that print short articles with lots of photos, often about famous people

a Match the highlighted 'headline verbs' with their meaning.

1 ☐ **Prime minister backs his Chancellor in latest scandal**

2 ☐ **Thousands of jobs axed by UK firms**

3 ☐ **Stock market hit by oil fears**

4 ☐ **Astronaut bids to be first man on Mars**

5 ☐ **MINISTERS CLASH OVER NEW CAR TAX PROPOSAL**

6 ☐ **Bayern Munich boss vows to avenge defeat**

7 ☐ **Police quiz witness in murder trial**

8 ☐ **Actress rows with co-star over unfair pay**

A have been cut
B question, interrogate
C is going to attempt
D supports
E disagree
F has been badly affected
G argues
H promises

b 🔊 8.16 Listen and check.

2 JOURNALISTS AND PEOPLE IN THE MEDIA

a Match the words and definitions.

agony aunt /'ægəni ɑːnt/ commentator /'kɒmənteɪtə/ critic /'krɪtɪk/
editor /'edɪtə/ freelance journalist /,friːlɑːns 'dʒɜːnəlɪst/
newsreader /'njuːzriːdə/ paparazzi (pl) /,pæpə'rætsi/
presenter /prɪ'zentə/ reporter /rɪ'pɔːtə/

1 _critic_ — a person who writes (a review) about the good / bad qualities of books, concerts, theatre, films, etc.
2 _____ — a person who describes a sports event while it's happening on TV or radio
3 _____ — a person who collects and reports news for newspapers, radio, or TV
4 _____ — a person who is in charge of a newspaper or magazine, or part of one, and who decides what should be in it
5 _____ — a person who introduces the different sections of a radio or TV programme
6 _____ — a person who writes articles for different papers and is not employed by any one paper
7 _____ — a person who reads the news on TV or radio
8 _____ — photographers who follow famous people around to get photos of them to sell to newspapers and magazines
9 _____ — a person who writes in a newspaper or magazine giving advice to people in reply to their letters

b 🔊 8.17 Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Are there any people in the media in your country that you really like or really dislike?

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE THE MEDIA

a Match the sentences.

1 ☐ The reporting in the paper was very **sensational**. /sen'seɪʃənl/
2 ☐ The news on Channel 12 is really **biased**. /'baɪəst/
3 ☐ I think The Observer is the most **objective** of the Sunday papers. /əb'dʒektɪv/
4 ☐ The film review was quite **accurate**. /'ækjərət/
5 ☐ I think the report was **censored**. /'sensəd/

A It said the plot was poor but the acting good, which was true.
B It bases its stories just on facts, not on feelings or beliefs.
C The newspaper wasn't allowed to publish all the details.
D It made the story seem more shocking than it really was.
E You can't believe anything you hear on it. It's obvious what political party they favour!

8 tips on how to spot fake news

Fake content has become a daily reality of life online, with hundreds of sites creating false or exaggerated stories for political or personal gain. In spite of the efforts of big tech companies to limit the spread of fake news, some stories fall through the cracks. The expert advice is that it's always useful to have a critical eye and to be on the lookout for misleading stories. There are several telltale signs to look for. Fake news experts Will Moy, director of British fact-checking charity Full Fact, and Cambridge University researcher Sander van der Linden offer their tips.

1 Beware of stories that don't make _____

One of the key signs of fake news is that the stories are highly improbable. During last year's Hurricane Irma, a hugely popular viral story claimed that it was a Category Six hurricane that would 'wipe cities off the map'. Category Six hurricanes do not exist. Moy says, 'Extraordinary claims need extraordinary evidence. If somebody says Elvis is alive, ask for a song before you believe it.'

2 Check the _____ of the news site that published it

Unfamiliar sites built to sound like news organizations are behind many fake news stories, but the names of the sites are often a hint that stories may be fake. When the *Denver Guardian* made claims about Hillary Clinton's emails, there was one small problem – there is no such paper as the *Denver Guardian*. It sounds real, but it is completely fake. 'Be careful of websites that you haven't heard of before,' says Moy.

3 Beware faked website _____

Some sites may try to impersonate real news outlets with URLs which seem similar but have slight differences. For instance, one fake news site impersonated ABC news using a URL which read *ABC.com.co*, rather than *abcnews.go.com*.

4 Check the _____

False news stories often include timelines which make no sense, or contain the wrong dates. For instance, images purporting to be of a 2016 terror attack in Brussels were actually from a 2011 attack on Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

5 Look for unusual _____ and mistakes

Often, the sign that news is fake is that it is of low quality, with spelling errors and an over-use of capital letters. Real news sources will employ editors to remove these errors and ensure accuracy.

6 Look out for _____ celebrity accounts

'Sometimes stories can spread online after being shared by a social media account designed to impersonate a real person,' says Sander van der Linden. 'Think about the fake tweets that were supposedly sent out by billionaire Warren Buffett. Someone was impersonating him, and millions of people did not notice that the Twitter handle read 'WarrenBuffet', while his real name is Warren Buffett.'

7 Google-search the _____

Fake news sites will often use unrelated or doctored photos. Google-search them to see where they came from and check how accurate they are against other legitimate news sites. Other hoaxers will use deliberately disturbing imagery in an attempt to hook in readers, van der Linden says. 'Emotional content is more likely to go viral, for example, imagine the effect of a fake story containing disturbing images about the effects of a fake disease.'

8 If you're unsure, double check with a source you _____

Fake news stories will often appear on just one site, so if you're unsure, check against a reliable news source. 'When it matters, double check,' says Moy, 'particularly when it comes to health or other life decisions. Always use a trustworthy source.'

Adapted from The Telegraph

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e Can you remember these adjectives from the text for...?

1 something you shouldn't believe:
exa_____, mis_____, impr_____, doc_____

2 something you should believe:
leg_____, rel_____, tru_____

f Which news websites do you think are a) reputable, b) untrustworthy? Can you think of any examples of exaggerated or fake news?

6 ▶ VIDEO LISTENING

a Watch the documentary *The speed of news* once. Number the ways of delivering news in the order they are mentioned.

☐ cable TV
☐ Facebook
☐ live Twitter feeds
☐ radio and television
☐ the Boston newsletter
☐ the telegraph line

b Watch the documentary again and answer the questions.

1 Where is the Newseum? How many different newspapers are there?
2 Who was Edward Teach? When was he killed?
3 How were early newspapers distributed? Why was this a problem?
4 How was news communicated during the American Civil War?
5 Why were Civil War news reports not very accurate?
6 Which inventions created the age of mass media?
7 What event appeared on Twitter seconds after it occurred?

c Are there any newspapers or magazines in your country that have existed for a long time? What reputation do they have nowada...