

How to be a **FAKE NEWS** detective

Reading, listening to and watching the news is vital for finding out about what is happening in the UK and around the world. Most of the news we read is produced by **news companies** we can trust. But sometimes **fake news** is created to try and trick us or change our opinions.



Here are some top tips to become a fake news detective:

1. Have you heard of the news company before? Yes No

If you have, then the story is more likely to be true (e.g. *Newsround*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*).

4. Does the story include information from experts? Yes No

If it's true it's more likely to have a quote from someone who knows about the topic who the journalist has interviewed.

2. Does the website address look real? Yes No

Most websites end in **.co.uk** or **.com** such as **bbc.co.uk**, but fake news websites might end with something that looks different, like **.co.com**.

5. Does the story tell you where you can get more information? Yes No

If it includes website links or the names of organisations is it more likely to be true.

3. Can you find the same news story on a website that you trust? Yes No

A true story will normally be reported by more than one news company.

6. Is the story well written? Yes No

If a news story has some spelling mistakes, is badly written or has no date, this could be a sign that it is fake news.

If the answer to any of these questions is **NO**, you might want to speak to a trusted adult before believing the story or sharing it with somebody else.