

CHECKLIST

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS?



1.

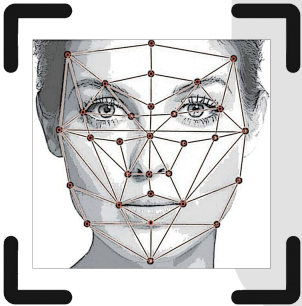
READ THE FULL STORY



Headlines can be loud and enticing, designed to draw you in (known as clickbait), but they may not accurately represent the content of the story

2.

DO SOME RESEARCH ON THE AUTHOR



Stories often come from unreliable sources. Research the author or expert. If the information is on social media, investigate the account to see if it could be a bot or a hacked profile

3.

GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCE

If the article is a translation or comes from abroad, check the original to make sure the translation is faithful and the interpretations are accurate



4.

IS IT A JOKE OR A HOAX?



It can be especially embarrassing to find out that you've shared a fake story that was just a prank or satire.

Fake stories may first appear on satire sites and then be picked up by the media

5.

CHECK WITH MULTIPLE SOURCES

Consult other legitimate media outlets or news agencies. If an explosive story is only being reported by a few questionable outlets, it's a sign to double-check the facts and data



6.

VERIFY FACTS AND IMAGES

Real news includes detailed facts: dates, statistics, expert quotes, etc.

False news stories may have incorrect dates or altered timelines, which can often be verified through public sources.

If articles include photos or videos, perform a reverse image search using free tools available on major search engines



7.

KEEP EMOTIONS IN CHECK

Fake news is designed to create panic, leading to hasty and illogical decisions.

Approach emotionally charged news with caution; taking a moment to pause can lead to a more objective evaluation

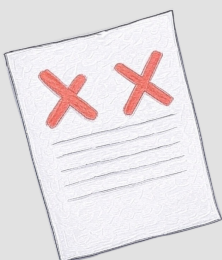


8.

LOOK FOR ERRORS AND COMMON MISLEADING PHRASES

Fake news often contains spelling mistakes, inaccuracies, and phrases not typically found in professionally edited materials.

Phrases like «a friend told me» or «according to sources within the police/special services» are used to artificially lend credibility to the information, suggesting it comes from a trustworthy source

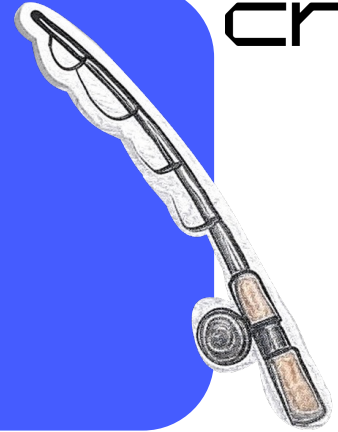


9.

BEWARE OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Fake news sometimes spreads through imitation news sites that mimic the look of legitimate news sources to gain trust.

Examine the URL of the site carefully for small discrepancies that suggest it's a fake



10.

READ THE COMMENTS

Comments below an article may highlight inconsistencies or odd details that readers have noticed



11.

AVOID CONFIRMATION BIAS

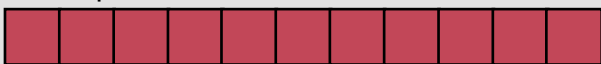
The tendency to seek out information that confirms our pre-existing beliefs is a cognitive bias that affects how we interpret information.

We tend to accept facts that agree with our beliefs and ignore those that don't

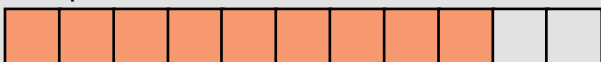


Misinformation Level

10-11 points



7-9 points



4-6 points



1-3 points



For more educational materials on fact-checking, see the GFCN website via QR code!

