

Fake news

Can you believe everything you hear? Of course not! Sometimes people lie, or just don't tell you the most important things. Can you believe everything you read? Unfortunately, it's hard to know which stories are real and which are made-up, especially on the Internet. There are people who try to trick others on purpose.

This is how you get fake news. They usually come in two types:

- 1) False stories that are not true at all, but people write them to get visits on their websites.
- 2) Stories that are a little true. People who write them don't check facts, or want to make their stories more interesting.



However, there are also ways to discover if a piece of news is mostly true or not. The most important thing to remember is to ask questions. If a story doesn't sound right, check if these are true:

- There is another source for the same story – you heard about it from at least two people or websites.

- It is on the radio, TV or in the newspapers. (This type of media usually has better reporters.)
- You found the story on a website which you, your friends and family already know.
- The website address looks real (ends with .co, .com, .hr, or similar)
- The photo or video is sharp and does not look Photoshopped at first sight.
- The story mentions at least two sources, or gives other type of proof.

If you cannot say “yes” to all of these sentences, it is a good idea to check the story out. There are websites where you can do it, such as Snopes and Factcheck. Also, when you are not sure about a story, you can speak to an adult whom you trust.



Answer the questions.

- 1 Have you ever read or heard a piece of false news? If yes, what did you do? If no, did you ever tell a false story?
- 2 From 1-5, how much do you trust stories you read online? How about other students in your class?
- 3 Do you usually check the stories you hear? Why (not)?
- 4 Do you have your own ways of discovering if the story is false or not?

Tasks:

- 1 Find two stories online, one false and one real.
- 2 Read them in class.
- 3 Let other students guess which one is true.
- 4 Did they guess?
- 5 Explain how you found the true and the false one.