

How to Spot Fake News



**IS THIS  
FOR REAL?**



# MISINFORMATION

False or misleading information (intentional or unintentional)



# DISINFORMATION

False or misleading information intentionally spread to obscure the truth or influence public opinion



# 1 CHECK THE URL

## DOMAIN NAME

### official outlets

.com, .edu, .gov, .org

### not usually legitimate news sources

.biz, .net, .info, .xyz, .co

## CLOSE BUT NOT QUITE

BuzzFeedUSA.com (BuzzFeedNews.com)

wralnews5.net (wral.com)

ABCNews.com.co (abcnews.com)

cnn-trending.com (cnn.com)

2

**CHECK THE DATE**



# 3 INVESTIGATE THE NEWS OUTLET

VERIFIED MEDIA OUTLET **OR** BLOG **OR** FAKE NEWS OUTLET

Search to see what other articles have been published by that platform.

Search to see if the platform has been accused of spreading fake news in the past.

Look at the About Us page. Read the publication description.  
Babylon Bee - "Fake News You Can Trust" (satire)

# 4 INVESTIGATE THE WRITER

IS THERE A BYLINE? **IF NOT, BE SUSPICIOUS**

IF SO, SEARCH THE WRITER'S NAME.

What are other articles the journalist has published?

Has the writer ever been in the news?



# 5 VERIFY FACTS

---

**Search the internet** for other articles from other **reputable** outlets or writers that report the same story.

**Visit Fact Checking websites**

snopes.com, factcheck.org, poynter.org, realclearpolitics.com, breitbart.com





# CHECK FOR POOR GRAMMAR AND SPELLING ERRORS

Two **seperate** reports indicated **their** were **to** many people crammed inside the subway car when it left the station.

**Pres. Byden** announced new programs for funding **colledge** tuition.

**Him** and his wife vacationed in **Antiqua** just months before the hurricane hit.

# 7 CHECK THE BIAS

---

What is the bias?

How balanced is the reporting?

# SOURCES

---

True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News (Cindy L. Otis)

The Media and Me: A Guide to Critical Media Literacy for Young People  
(Project Censored and Media Revolution Collective)

AllSides.com