

Media literacy versus fake news

Critical thinking, resilience and civic participation



Professor David Buckingham

Loughborough University and Kings College London, UK

**Can we please stop talking about
'fake news'?**



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

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The Fake News is working overtime. Just reported that, despite the tremendous success we are having with the economy & all things else, 91% of the Network News about me is negative (Fake). Why do we work so hard in working with the media when it is corrupt? Take away credentials?

7:38 AM - 9 May 2018



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

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Russia talk is FAKE NEWS put out by the Dems, and played up by the media, in order to mask the big election defeat and the illegal leaks!

RETWEETS

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10:16 AM - 26 Feb 2017

← 38K

↻ 16K

♥ 71K



RECENT ALERTS

06 MARCH 2019

The Fake News Nazi - Corbyn, Williamson And The Anti-Semitism Scandal

One of us had a discussion with an elderly relative:

'He can't be allowed to become Prime Minister.'

'Why not?'

'It's so awful...'

'What is?'

'The way he hates the Jews.'

The last comment was spoken with real anguish, the result of continuous exposure to just two main news sources: the Daily Mail and the BBC.

What is astonishing is that, just four years ago, essentially *no-one* held this view of Jeremy Corbyn.



1 YEAR AGO

The Breaking Of The Corporate Media Monopoly

Last week, Jeremy Corbyn humbled the entire political and corporate media commentariat. With a little **help** from Britain's student population. And with a little help from thousands of media activists.

Without doubt...

[Read more...](#)

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BIASED

B B C

EXPOSING THE BROADCASTING BIAS OF THE BBC



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Aw, Bless!

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In Their Own Words

When people ask for evidence of an institutional Left-wing bias at the BBC, this is the place to go for evidence. Out of the mouths of Beeboids....

The BBC is "a publicly-funded urban organisation with an abnormally large proportion of younger people, of people in ethnic minorities and almost certainly of gay people, compared with the population at large".

All this, he said, "creates an innate liberal bias inside the BBC".

—Andrew Marr

"It's a bit like walking into a Sunday meeting of the Flat Earth Society. As they discuss great issues of the day, they discuss them from the point of view that the earth is flat.

"If someone says, 'No, no, no, the earth is round!', they think this person is an extremist. That's what it's like for someone with my right-of-centre views working inside the BBC."

— Jeff Randall, former BBC business editor

By far the most popular and widely read newspapers at the BBC are The Guardian and The Independent. Producers refer to them routinely for the line to take on running stories, and for inspiration on which items to cover. In the later stages of my career, I lost count of the number of times I asked a producer for a brief on a story, only to be handed a copy of The Guardian and told 'it's all in there'.

— Peter Sissons, Former BBC News and Current Affairs presenter

Search Biased BBC

Search

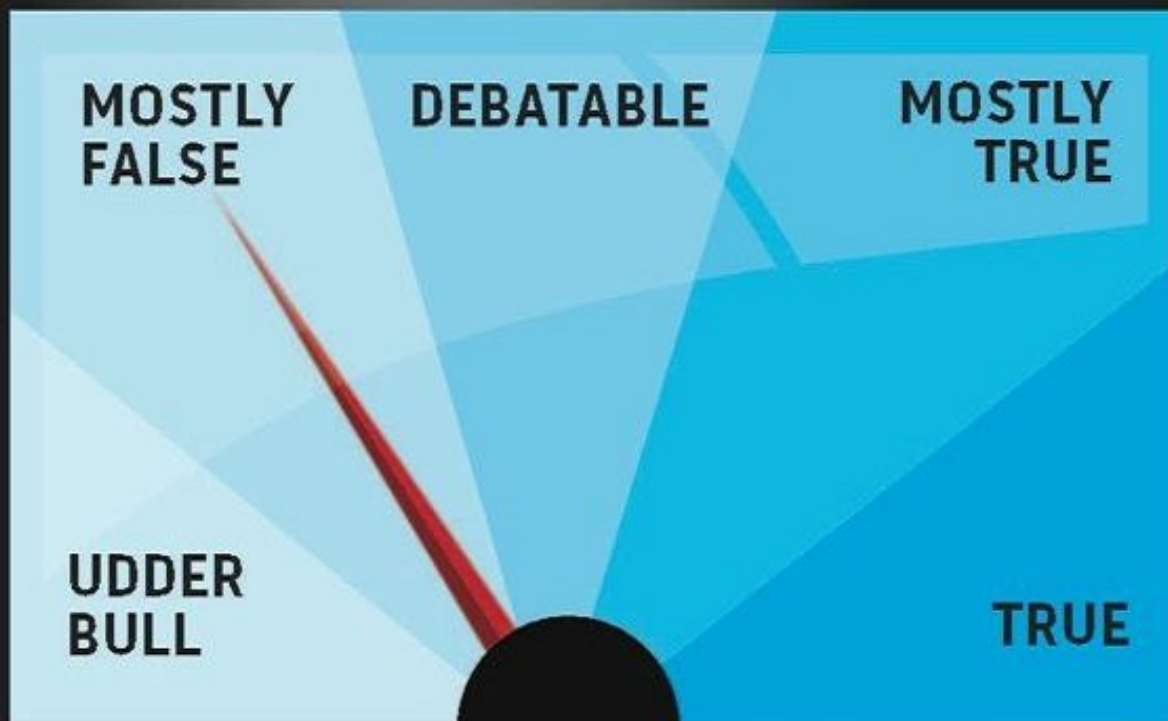
OK

Recent Comments

- Up2snuff March 8, 2019 at 7:58 am on [Midweek Open Thread 6 March 2019](#)
TOADY Watch #2 Anti-Brexit/Anti-No-Deal Brexit campaigning reaches new heights. The RSPCA say we have to stay. A vet is wheeled...
- Up2snuff March 8, 2019 at 7:53 am on [Midweek Open Thread 6 March 2019](#)
TOADY Watch #1 I suggested the other day that the Dept for Education might have joined the Home Office as...
- JamesG March 8, 2019 at 7:49 am on [Midweek Open Thread 6 March 2019](#)
I think this is what is known as an intersectionality clash.
- Annunaki March 8, 2019 at 7:45 am on [Midweek Open Thread 6 March 2019](#)
protestor has the bare faced cheek to quote the equities act: 'The school is denying our right as a parent,...
- Annunaki March 8, 2019 at 7:43 am on [Midweek Open Thread 6 March 2019](#)
Hundreds of Musliim parents along with children dressed as superheroes

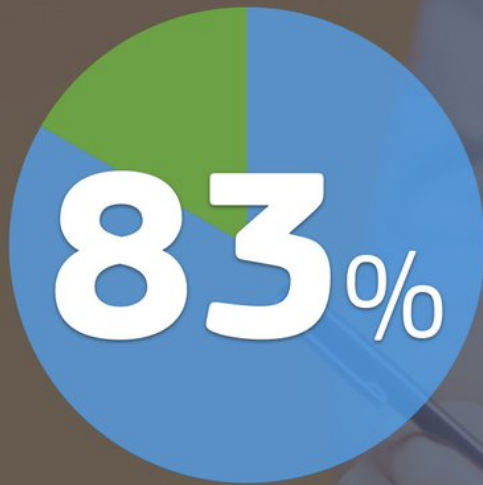


FACT CHECKER



SEVEN DAYS & VTDIGGER

Eurobarometer
on **Fake News**



of Europeans perceive
fake news to be a
problem for democracy

#TackleFakeNews
Source: Eurobarometer



A purple pencil is shown erasing the word "disinformation" on a white surface. The pencil is positioned diagonally from the top left, with its eraser tip touching the word. The word "disinformation" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font and is tilted upwards to the right. The eraser is actively removing the letters, with small, reddish-brown shavings of the word's surface material scattered around the base of the pencil. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

disinformation

How do we keep sight of the bigger picture?



Engraved according to Act of Congress 1855 by Henry R. Day in the Office of the Clerk of District Ct of the United States for the Southern District of New York.

NATIONAL
ENQUIRER
THE WORLD'S LIVELIEST PAPER

FEATURE 15c

Rita Hayworth Says...

I'M BACK FROM THE DEAD

*For Two Years
I Was a Zombie*



WEEKLY WORLD
NEWS

*Space creature survived
UFO crash in Arkansas!*

HILLARY CLINTON ADOPTS ALIEN BABY



Secret Service building special
nursery in the White House!

15p **DAILY STAR** THE NEWS, THE SPORT, THE PICK, THE SPORT

Suarez out of World Cup.. and Liverpool

FREE WEBSITE! WWW.DAILYSTAR.CO.UK 40p

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014



CRACKLING Prince Harry



PERVERT Jimmy Savile

MONSTER RATS THE SIZE OF COWS

EXCLUSIVE

AN UNPRECEDENTED swarm of super-colossal rats has the size of cows on a rampage in the north of England. The monster rodents are causing havoc in the region and are feared to be spreading to other parts of the country.

Full story Page 6

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Buy one general admission ticket at £19.95 and receive a second free of charge (one free entry per person) for either Flamingo Land Resort, Flamingo Land or Flamingo Land Water Park. Tickets are available for purchase from the website and at the park. See website for full terms and conditions.

THE Sun STILL ONLY 30p

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 30p

149 DAYS TO GO

DRAGONS' DEN DUNCAN DIVORCES

EXCLUSIVE: SEE PAGE 9

KERRY'S WEIRD CRAVING

2 Bibles found in Bin's lair

EXCLUSIVE

THEY were found in the bin of a man who was arrested for the murder of a woman in a London flat. The bin had been searched for drugs and other items, but the Bibles were found hidden away. The man, who was arrested on suspicion of the murder, was charged with the murder of a woman in a London flat.

Full story Page 8

BEAT THE GREAT Sun

Blitz the £1.2bn fiddlers

EXCLUSIVE

A DENTAL nurse told yesterday how she has **EATEN 4,000 washing-up sponges** due to a rare disorder.

Full story Page 10

Psycho path

PEARCE TARGETS FULL-TIME TAKEOVER OF 3 LIONS

ENGLAND v HOLLAND

EXCLUSIVE: SEE PAGE 11

Girl eats 4,000 washing-up sponges

EXCLUSIVE

A DENTAL nurse told yesterday how she has **EATEN 4,000 washing-up sponges** due to a rare disorder.

Full story Page 10

SUNDAY SPORT THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER July 31, 1988

Sam's after two of the best!

World War 2's best-kept secret

ADOLF HITLER WAS A WOMAN

EXCLUSIVE

Trucker flips over

real-life mermaid

Aliens caught in TV licence fiddle

ZOOM TO PAGE 15

THE Sun 40th
 Monday, September 14, 2015
 BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PAPER

EXCLUSIVE
Myleene back in jungle

RUGBY WORLD CUP: 4 DAYS TO GO
England captain: It's all for my mum

FREE
RUGBY CARDS

LABOUR IN MELTDOWN

CORBYN: ABOLISH THE ARMY
New leader's potty plan for world peace

My life with the killer of Baby P
EXCLUSIVE

JOSE'S F-WORD RANT

SEE SUBSCRIPTION AND GIVEAWAY

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US reporter and her cameraman **British father-of-two swept out to sea** **Toddler suffocated after her pyjamas** **The 9 health symptoms men**

Revealed: How Jeremy Corbyn welcomed the prospect of an asteroid 'wiping out' humanity, attacked 'pigeon prejudice' and demanded a ban on Action Man toys

- In 2003 Mr Corbyn backed a motion welcoming humanity being 'wiped out'
- Six years earlier he attacked 'pigeon prejudice' insisting birds were clean
- Mr Corbyn campaigned for rail staff to be allowed to keep 'calming' beards
- He also called for a ban on adverts for 'war toys' for boys, like Action Man

By TOM MCTAGUE, DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 12:14, 12 August 2015 | UPDATED: 17:01, 12 August 2015

THE Sun 20p
 Thursday, February 11, 2016
 FOR A GREATER BRITAIN

PICK YOUR DATE WITH CORBYN'S 2 FREE £95 TICKETS

SHOCK CLAIMS IN SECRET FILE

CORBYN AND THE COMMIE SPY

MET AGENT IN COLD WAR
TARGETED BY CZECHS
'BRIEFED' EVIL REGIME

FULL STORY: SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

Half Price
 250g Tesco Brand ham, 99p

For more Weekly Little Helps turn to page 6

TESCO
 Every little helps


THE Sun **ELECTION 2017**
 Thursday, June 8, 2017 FOR A GREATER BRITAIN 55p thesun.co.uk

We've had enough of Jezza's rubbish... VOTE TORY

- TERRORISTS' FRIEND
- USELESS ON BREXIT
- DESTROYER OF JOBS
- ENEMY OF BUSINESS
- MASSIVE TAX HIKES
- PUPPET OF UNIONS
- NUCLEAR SURRENDER
- RUINOUS SPENDING
- OPEN IMMIGRATION
- MARXIST EXTREMIST

SUN SAYS
 TODAY you can rescue Britain from the catastrophe of a takeover by Labour's hard-left extremists.
 Jeremy Corbyn would not just reverse seven years of job creation and growth under the Tories. He would chuck our country's spectacular progress and prosperity over the last 35 YEARS to the bin. Only a vote for Theresa May, Conservatives – not UKIP, or any other – will help keep Corbyn and Communist on Page 12

DON'T CHUCK BRITAIN IN THE.. COR-BIN



Daily Mail **VOTE TO SAVE BRITAIN!**
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017 www.dailymail.co.uk NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 55p

APOLOGISTS FOR TERROR



The Mail accuses this troika of befriending Britain's enemies and scorning the institutions that keep us safe

Daily Mail COMMENT

THE DAILY MAIL ACCUSES JEREMY CORBYN, JOHN MCDONNELL AND DIANE ABBOTT OF BEING APOLOGISTS FOR TERRORISM AND SCORNING THE INSTITUTIONS THAT KEEP US SAFE.

THE Sun **THE ANGEL OF LONDON BRIDGE**
 Wednesday, June 7, 2017 WE ARE NOT AFRAID 55p thesun.co.uk

THE SUN SAYS
 Labour leader was at rally with Islamic hate mob... make sure you vote for Tories tomorrow!

SUN INVESTIGATES CORBYN

JEZZA'S JIHADI COMRADES



JEZZA'S JIHADI COMRADES: A group of individuals, including Jezza, are shown at a rally. The article discusses their alleged involvement in extremist activities and their support for terrorism.

We send the EU **£350 million** a week
let's fund our **NHS** instead  Vote Leave

Let's take back control

TakeControl

NEWS

Entertainment & Arts

Laura Kuenssberg report on Jeremy Corbyn inaccurate, says BBC Trust

18 January 2017

f t Share



PA

The report was broadcast on 16 November 2015 in the aftermath of the Paris terror attacks

The BBC broke accuracy and impartiality rules in a News at Six report about Jeremy Corbyn's view on shoot-to-kill, the BBC's governing body has said.

The item, by BBC political editor Laura Kuenssberg, was shown three days after the Paris attacks in November 2015.

Voices

Our report found that 75% of press coverage misrepresents Jeremy Corbyn – we can't ignore media bias anymore

We all want and need a strong and a critical media, but maybe we do not need an attack dog that kills off anyone who challenges the status quo

Bart Cammaerts | Tuesday 19 July 2016 12:08 | 1254 comments

Like The Independent Voices



Over half of the news articles were critical or antagonistic in tone, compared to two thirds of all editorials and opinion pieces (Reuters)

In many democracies across the world new political leaders get a so-called honeymoon period. As our analysis of the journalistic representation of Jeremy Corbyn's first two months as party leader in eight national newspapers demonstrates, this did not apply to Corbyn. Our rigorous and statistically representative analysis concluded that when it comes to the coverage of Corbyn in his role as leader of the opposition, the majority of the press did not act as a critical watchdog of the powers that be, but rather more often as an antagonistic attackdog.

indy100 TRENDING
8 ways gender inequality still shockingly exists in 2019
Dominic Raab roasted for saying MPs have to 'keep promises on Brexit'



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How and what do we need to learn?

BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK

FAKE NEWS EDITION

1. Big red flags for fake news: ALL CAPS, or obviously photoshopped pics.
2. A glut of pop-ups and banner ads? Good sign the story is pure clickbait.
3. Check the domain! Fake sites often add “.co” to trusted brands to steal their luster. (Think: “abcnews.com.co”)
4. If you land on an unknown site, check its “About” page. Then, Google it with the word “fake” and see what comes up.
5. If a story offers links, follow them. (Garbage leads to worse garbage.) No links, quotes, or references? Another telltale sign.
6. Verify an unlikely story by finding a reputable outlet reporting the same thing.
7. Check the date. Social media often resurrects outdated stories.
8. Read past headlines. Often they bear no resemblance to what lies beneath.
9. Photos may be misidentified and dated. Use a reverse image search engine like TinEye to see where an image *really* comes from.
10. Gut check. If a story makes you angry, it's probably designed that way.
11. Finally, if you're not sure it's true, don't share it! *Don't. Share. It.*

ON **THE MEDIA**

ONTHEMEDIA.ORG



Developing Media Literacy

Primary Classroom Resources



Fake News 'Epidemic' Turn Out To Be False

Posted on November 24, 2016 by Sean Adl-Tabatabai in News, World // 3 Comments



 Share 184

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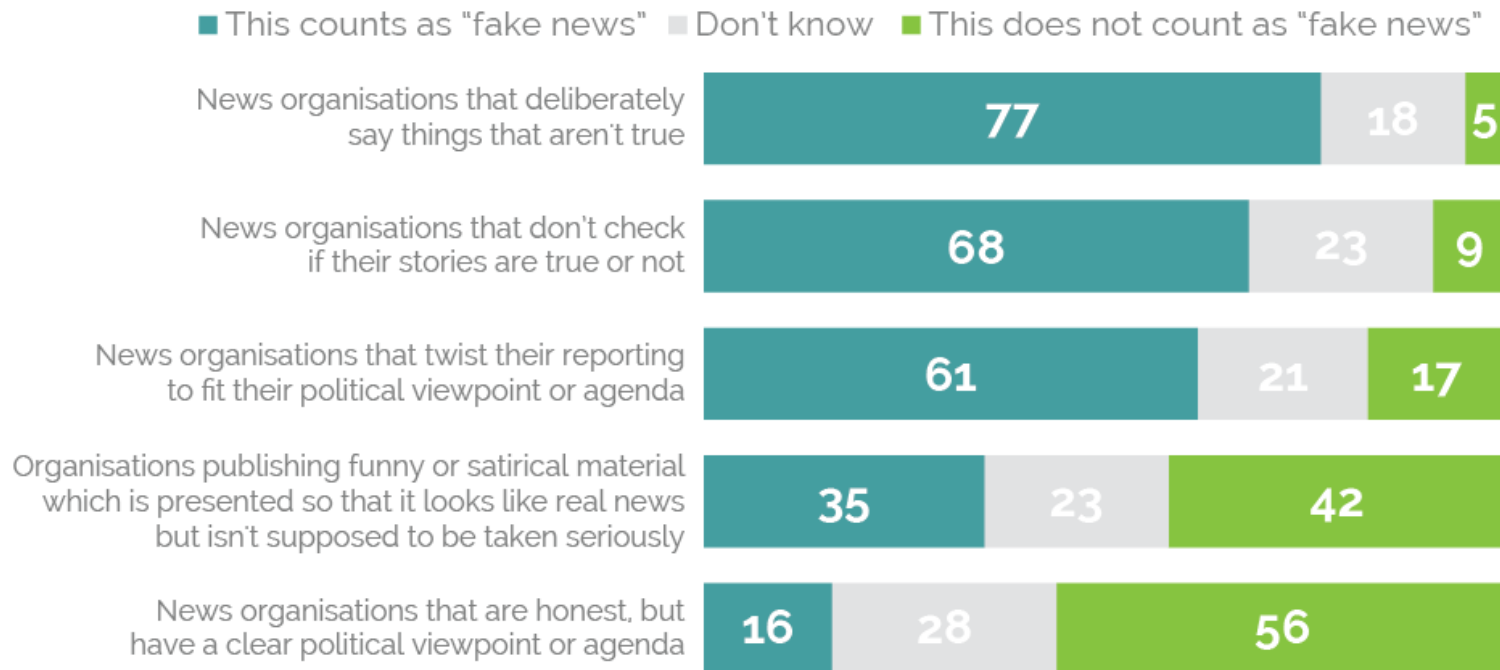
 Tweet

   0 points

The recent furor around the prevalence of fake news on social media turns out to be based on fake news stories published by the mainstream media.

What counts as "fake news"?

In recent months people have often talked about "fake news". Do you think each of following count or do not count as "fake news"? %





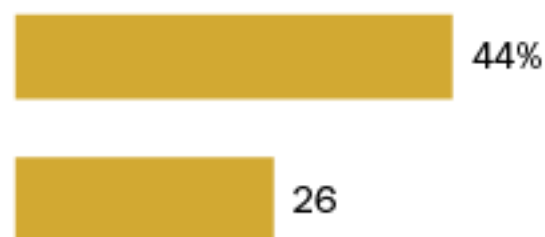
Younger Americans are better able to distinguish between factual and opinion news statements

% of U.S. adults in each age group who correctly classified ...


All five factual statements as factual



All five opinion statements as opinion



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 22-March 4, 2018.

Pew Research Center 

Facebook

Older people more likely to share fake news on Facebook, study finds

Researchers suggest over-65s may lack skills to determine veracity of online news



▲ US Facebook users shared seven times as many fake news articles as those aged 18-29, the study found. Photograph: Veryan Dale/Alamy

Older people are almost four times more likely to have shared fake news on Facebook than the younger generation, according to [research published in the journal Science](#).

Alex Hern

@alexhern

Thu 10 Jan 2019 11.54 GMT



3,807

This article is over 1 month old

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most viewed



The ugly power of R Kelly's photo with Gayle King



German who poisoned colleagues' sandwiches receives life sentence



Foreign Office grants Zaghari-Ratcliffe diplomatic protection



Big firms lying about female and minority directors, says top business chief



@RELIABLESOURCES

CONWAY EXPLAINS WHAT SHE MEANT BY "ALTERNATIVE FACTS"

CNN

11:24 AM ET

RELIABLE SOURCES

Is media literacy the (only) solution?

Fake news is not our friend.

We're committed to reducing its spread; so we're working with more fact-checkers globally, improving our technology, and giving you background information on the articles in your News Feed.

Find out more: fb.me/fbchangesUK

facebook



Tips for spotting false news.
It's possible to spot false news. As we work to limit the spread, check out a few ways to identify whether a story is genuine.

- 1. Be skeptical of headlines.**
False news stories often have catchy headlines in all caps with exclamation marks. If shocking claims in the headline sound unbelievable, they probably are.
- 2. Look closely at the URL.**
A phony or look-alike URL may be a warning sign of false news. Many fake news sites mimic authentic news sources by making small changes to the URL. You can go to the site and compare the URL to established sources.
- 3. Investigate the source.**
Ensure that the story is written by a source that you trust with a reputation for accuracy. If the story comes from an unfamiliar organization, check their "About" section to learn more.
- 4. Watch for unusual formatting.**
Many fake news sites have misspellings or awkward layouts. Read carefully if you see these signs.
- 5. Consider the photos.**
False news stories often contain manipulated images or videos. Sometimes the photo may be authentic, but taken out of context. You can search for the photo or image to verify where it came from.
- 6. Inspect the dates.**
False news stories may contain timelines that make no sense, or event dates that have been altered.
- 7. Check the evidence.**
Check the author's sources to confirm that they are accurate. Lack of evidence or reliance on unnamed experts may indicate a false news story.
- 8. Look at other reports.**
If no other news source is reporting the same story, it may indicate that the story is false. If the story is reported by multiple sources you trust, it's more likely to be true.
- 9. Is the story a joke?**
Sometimes false news stories can be hard to distinguish from humour or satire. Check whether the source is known for parody, and whether the story's details and tone suggest it may be just for fun.
- 10. Some stories are intentionally false.**
Think critically about the stories you read, and only share news that you know to be credible.

Together, we can limit the spread of false news.





House of Commons

Digital, Culture, Media and
Sport Committee

Disinformation and 'fake news': Final Report

Eighth Report of Session 2017–19



NEWS LIT RACY

NEWS STORIES
FEATURES

MAKING
HEADLINES





Ofcom

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WELFARE



www.davidbuckingham.net