

 MediaLiteracyCouncilSG
www.betterinternet.sg

BE SMART

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



DO WHAT'S RIGHT ONLINE

-  **QUESTION**
the source
-  **VERIFY**
the information
-  **CHECK**
with experts

 **CHECK
Please!**
Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Kind.



Before we believe and share, **CHECK PLEASE!**

Here's our checklist of 6 tips to help you stay smart on the Internet.

01 QUESTION THE SOURCE

Make sure that you obtain your information from a credible source with a good reputation. Check the URL to make sure it's not a hoax site.

02 VERIFY THE INFORMATION

Cross-check with other reliable sources and websites to see if the same story is running on all of them.

03 EXAMINE THE PAGES

Fake websites often do not have "About Us" or "Contact Us" pages, or have limited helpful information on them. If you're still unsure, you should also check the author's background for credibility.

04 CHECK THE LANGUAGE

Look out for grammar or spelling mistakes. These could suggest that the site is not credible.

05 READ BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Some headlines are sensationalised to attract more readers. Always read through the entire article before forming any conclusions.

06 ASK THE EXPERTS

To get help to verify the accuracy of Singapore-based information, you can go to websites such as Factly (www.gov.sg/factly), Snopes (www.snopes.com), or write in to The Straits Times at askST@sph.com.sg. For assistance to find credible sources, you can email the National Library Board Reference Point at ref@nlb.gov.sg





BE SMART

HELP YOUR CHILD SPOT FAKE NEWS

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Here's our checklist of 5 tips to help your child stay smart on the Internet.

01 TEACH THEM HOW TO CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF A SOURCE

Share helpful tips on ways to check if a source is credible. For example, look out for grammar or spelling mistakes, check the URL to make sure it's not a hoax site and examine the "About Us" or "Contact Us" pages.

02 REMIND THEM TO USE CREDIBLE SOURCES

Explain the importance of obtaining news from credible sources and news sites, not just through their friends or social media. Discuss and come up with a few examples of sources that you can rely on.

03 ENCOURAGE CROSS-CHECKING HABITS

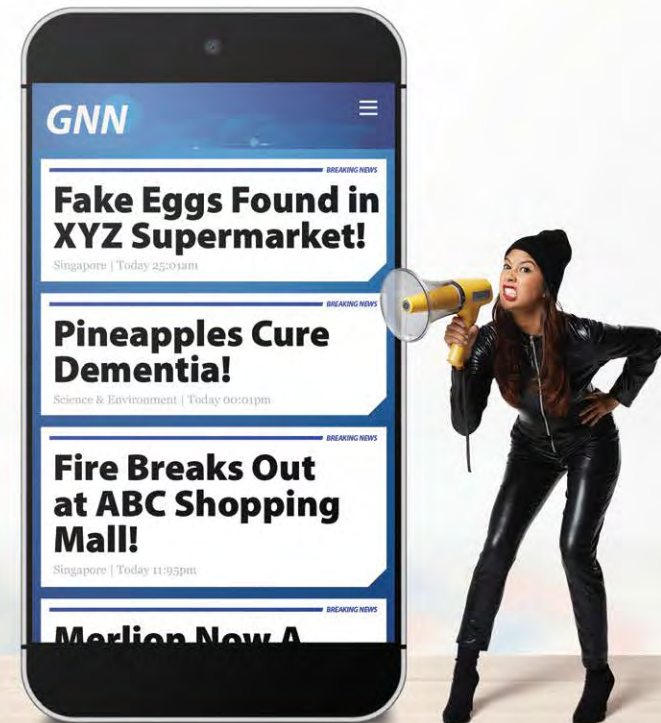
Show them how to cross-check news stories to make sure that the same story is running on multiple credible sites. Make sure they develop the habit of cross-checking the information they get with several reliable sources.

04 SHOW THEM EXPERTS THEY CAN TURN TO

Explore the sites they can use to verify the accuracy of news when they are unsure, such as Factly (www.gov.sg/factly), Snopes (www.snopes.com), or writing into The Straits Times at askST@sph.com.sg. If they need help to look for credible sources, they can also email the National Library Board Reference Point at ref@nlb.gov.sg

05 ENCOURAGE THEM TO AVOID SHARING UNVERIFIED NEWS

Help them understand that unverified information can be untrue. They should avoid posting, sharing, or forwarding stories that they receive without checking them first.



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SG:D | GET READY!

BE SMART

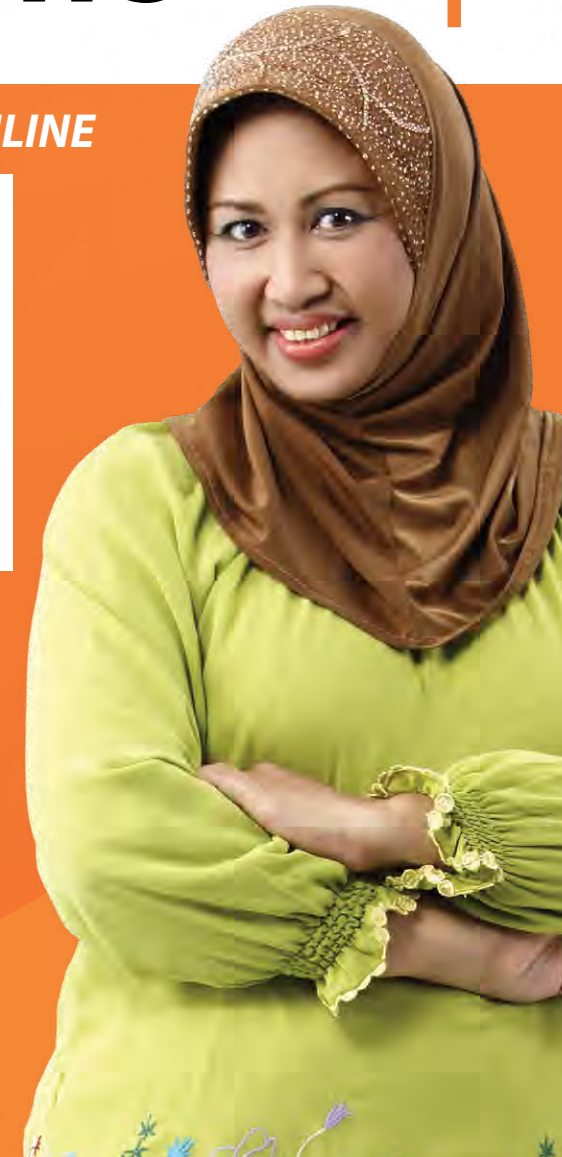
SIGNS OF FAKE NEWS



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Before we trust or click, **CHECK PLEASE!**

Look out for these signs, and you will be better at identifying fake news online when you come across it.

01 POOR WRITING

Many fake news sites and articles are riddled with poor spelling or grammatical errors. Look out for these not just in the main content of the article but also in the other pages of the site, particularly the 'About Us' or 'Contact Us' pages.

02 CLICKBAIT

If the headline has words like 'Amazing' or 'Unbelievable' and extreme images that immediately draw your attention, it is best not to click on the page. Clickbait is used to get more people to click on a story to gain advertising revenue. The link likely leads to suspicious content, like surveys, automatic downloads or content that does not fit the headline.

03 BAD PHOTOS

A fair news writer would not choose unflattering or ugly pictures of someone to get their point across, like someone sneezing or eating. Instead, they would try to use images that best captured the topic of the article. If you see photos like this attached to a story, check if the writer has other articles with biased points of view.

04 UNKNOWN AUTHORS

Occasionally, articles do not make it clear who the author is to protect their identity, especially if they are revealing confidential information. However, this is quite rare and most articles with unclear or unknown sources are fake news. Real news writers would openly state their name so that you can check their credentials and previous articles.

05 SPONSORED CONTENT

Sponsored content increasingly looks exactly like non-sponsored content on news sites and social media feeds, except that it is paid for by an advertiser. All content that is paid for is biased as it is trying to sell you something. Look out for the phrases "sponsored" or "paid for by" on the page.

06 VIRAL VIDEOS

Not all viral videos are fake, but many that become popular online are very misleading. They are posted without the full context and lead people to form the wrong conclusions. Many viral videos are often also sponsored for advertising purposes by companies.

