

Staying Safe Online – Fake News & Scams



Name _____ Date _____

1. Check the word 'scam' in the dictionary and write the meaning here:

There are a lot of scams online where people try to access your personal information. Be very careful when you are online and don't give your personal information to anyone. Check your emails carefully and don't believe everything you read online or message you receive.



2. Put these 12 words into alphabetical order:

fake	news	scams	password	online	true
bias	messages	trick	safe	check	real

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____


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3. Fake Emails and Messages

Read this email. Is it real? Why not?

From: asda customer service
To: customer@assda.co.uk
Re: Thank you for shopping with Asda
Dear custommer, Thank you for being a loyal customer with us. To saying thank_you we would like to reward you with a £20 voucher to spend in any Asda store. To receive your voucer please click on the link below and enter your bank account details. Then we will sending you £20. Click the link: asda.reward.zyytzmm Best wishes, Alex Asda Customer Service


Scam emails sometimes have a lot of mistakes in them.

Find at least 4 mistakes in the email above and write them here:

4. Passwords

Passwords should be a mixture of capital and small letters (upper and lower case), symbols and numbers. They should not be family names or words you can remember easily.

Which of these is a good password and why?

- a. 12345 b. Password123 c. Ybh78K?! d. Teddy e. Liverpool78

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5. Online Scams

People sometimes pretend to be someone else online. They make you trust them and then trick you into doing bad things. Read about Zara. What do you think she should do?



Zara is 23 and moved to the UK recently. She doesn't have a lot of friends. She spends a lot of time on her computer. She meets Zac online and chats to him most evenings for a few weeks. Zac sends Zara a

photo and she thinks he looks nice. This is the photo Zac sends:

Zac messages Zara and says he would like to meet her but he doesn't have a lot of money, so can she send him £500 so he can meet her.



6. Fake News

Fake news are stories online that are not true. They are often presented to the reader as if they are true stories. Sometimes it is easy to spot fake news because it is so stupid:



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But sometimes stories are more convincing and look and sound real:



You must think about the stories you read online and ask yourself if they are real or fake. **DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ!**
Think about who wrote the stories and why they want you to believe them.

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Read the text on page 6 and answer the questions:

1. What is the purpose of the text?
 - a. To give you advice on how to tell if a news story is fake
 - b. To tell you how to write a fake news story
 - c. To sell you a newspaper
2. What are the features of the text?
 - a. Bullet points and italic
 - b. Columns and block capitals
 - c. Logos and numbers
3. What type of text could this be?
 - a. A poster or leaflet
 - b. A letter or email
 - c. A newspaper or magazine article
4. What is the language and style?
 - a. Confusing and unclear
 - b. Messy and disorganised
 - c. Clear and easy to read

5. What does this image represent?
 - a. The author
 - b. The date
 - c. The location



6. Check the word 'bias' in the dictionary and write the meaning here:

7. In the '**Is It A Joke?**' section why does the text tell you to research the site?
 - a. It may be written a long time ago
 - b. It may be written by a librarian
 - c. It may be written as a joke
8. In the '**Check Your Biases**' section what does it advise you to do?
 - a. Think about stories you have read in the past
 - b. Think about if your personal opinions change the way you think about a story
 - c. Think about if the author is a reliable person
9. In the '**Read Beyond**' section what does it tell you?
 - a. Headlines are the most important part of the story
 - b. Headlines tell you who wrote the story
 - c. Headlines are written to attract your attention

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How to Spot

FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

Source: <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/c.php?g=868129&p=6229710> and www.factcheck.org