

How do you recognize fake news?

Important aspects for source checking



How is the news designed?

A sensationalist writing style, emotional language, and spectacular images can be indicators of fake news. This style pushes the content into the background. The striking presentation is meant to attract readers – often with the goal of spreading false information.



Read the entire text instead of just the headline

Read the entire text and not just the headline. Sensationalist titles without real content are typical of fake news. Often, the text of fake news contains completely different content than the title.



Check author and sources

If an article lacks information about authorship, it might have been deliberately concealed. Try to get a complete picture of the topic. Research additional sources, for example, to compare the presented facts. It's interesting to see in what context and time period the images and information also appear.



Where does the news come from?

To verify a news story, copy part of the text into a search engine's search field and look for the origin of the news. Pay attention to contradictory statements and research backgrounds to get a comprehensive picture.



Check information for accuracy and timeliness

Are the mentioned numbers, facts, or studies plausible and up-to-date? If studies are cited, take a look at the original source to verify the statements. Also use fact-checking portals like **Mimikama** or **Hoaxmap** – they expose misleading or outdated information that has already been identified as fake news.



Images, videos, and audio files: technically check for falsifications

Does an image, video, or audio file show something unusual or contradict known facts? Then reverse search helps: screenshots can be searched for their origin via Google Images Search or TinEye. This way, fake, manipulated, or out-of-context media can be quickly identified.

Sources:

<https://www.schau-hin.info/sicherheit-risiken/fake-news-umgang-mit-falschmeldungen>

<https://www.lmz-bw.de/medienbildung/themen-von-f-bis-z/hatespeech-und-fake-news/fake-news/wie-kann-man-fake-news-erkennen?>