

# HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

## webwise.ie CHECKLIST

There are a number of things to watch out for when evaluating information online.



**CHECK THE URL:** Watch out for websites with strange domain names or urls. Many fake news articles use domain names similar to well-known news or media sites with minor changes made to the domain name spelling.



**TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:** Check the source of the story, do you recognise the website? Is it a credible/reliable source? If you are unfamiliar with the site, look in the about section or find out more information about the author.



**LOOK BEYOND THE HEADLINE:** Check the entire article, many fake news stories use sensationalist or shocking headlines to grab attention. Often the headlines of fake news stories are in all caps and use exclamation points.



**CHECK OTHER SOURCES:** Are other reputable news/media outlets reporting on the story? Are there any sources in the story? If so, check they are reliable or if they even exist!



**CHECK THE FACTS:** Fake news stories often contain incorrect dates or altered timelines. It is also a good idea to check when the article was published, is it current or an old news story?



**IS IT A JOKE?** Satirical sites are popular online and sometimes it is not always clear whether a story is just a joke or parody... Check the website, is it known for satire or creating funny stories?