

## First English Exam KEYS

[1] The truth about online **fake news** is becoming clearer. A new study shows that on Twitter, **phony stories** reach more people than truthful ones do. **Fake stories** also spread far faster.

*Fake news* refers to stories based on false or misinterpreted information. These stories try to dupe readers into believing something that isn't true. Some might try to make **public figures** look bad or claim people did something they didn't. Others might try to discredit **scientific findings**. Such stories are often shared on **social media platforms** such as Twitter and **Facebook**. But scientists have lacked data on how widely they were shared, or by whom. So a team of researchers decided to investigate.

They recently analyzed more than 4.5 million tweets and retweets. All had been posted between 2006 and 2017. And their disturbing finding: Fake news spreads faster and further on Twitter than **true stories** do.

Filippo Menczer studies informatics and **computer science** at Indiana University in Bloomington. He was not part of the new study but says its findings are important for understanding the spread of fake news. Before this, he notes, most investigations used a few people's observations rather than a mountain of **scientific data**. Until now, he says, "We didn't have a really **large-scale**, systematic study evaluating the spread of misinformation."

[5] Deb Roy, who did work on the new analysis, studies media and social networks at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. In the past, he also has worked as a **media scientist** for Twitter. To study how news spreads on Twitter, Roy and his colleagues collected **tweet cascades**. These are groups of messages composed of one original tweet and all retweets of that initial post. They examined about 126,000 cascades centered on any of about 2,400 **news stories**. Each of those original news stories had been independently confirmed as true or false.

The researchers then collected data on how far and fast each cascade spread. Discussions of **bogus stories** tended to start from fewer original tweets. But they tended to soon spread extensively. Some chains reached tens of thousands of users! **True news stories**, in contrast, never spread to more than about 1,600 people. And true news stories took about six times as long as false ones to reach 1,500 people.

Overall, these data show, fake news was about 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than was real news. The team reported its results in the March 9 *Science*.

### NOT JUST BOTS

Roy's team also wanted to know who was responsible for spreading false news. So they looked at Twitter accounts that were involved in sharing **fake stories**. Some had been run by computers, not people. These **so-called web robots**, or *bots*, are **computer programs** that pretend to be human. They have been designed to find and spread certain types of stories.

Some people had assumed that bots drive most fake news moving across the internet. To test that, Roy and his colleagues looked at data both with and without **bot activity**.

[10] Bots spread false and true news about equally, the data showed. So fake news could not be blamed just on bots, Roy's group concluded. Instead, people are the main culprits in retweeting fake news.

Why might people be more likely to spread **tall tales**? These stories may seem more exciting, says **data scientist** Soroush Vosoughi. He works with Roy at MIT and is a co-author of the new study. Compared to the topics of **true-news** stories, **fake-news** topics were more different from other tweets that users had viewed in the two months before they retweeted a story. Tweet replies to the **false-news** stories also used more words indicating surprise.

The researchers didn't inspect the full content of every tweet. So they don't know exactly what users said about these stories. Some people who retweeted **fake-news** posts may have added comments to

debunk them. But Menczer calls the new analysis a “very good first step” in understanding what types of posts grab the most attention.

The study also could guide strategies for fighting the spread of fake news, says Paul Resnick. He works at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Though he was not part of the new study, he uses computer science to study how people behave online. One approach might be for social media platforms to discourage people from spreading rumours, he says. That approach might have more impact than simply booting off bots that behave badly.

Sinan Aral at MIT has some other ideas. He is another co-author of the new study and an expert on how information spreads through **social networks**. One way to fight fake news might be to help users identify true stories online, he suggests. **Social media sites** could label news pieces or **media outlets** with truthfulness scores, Aral suggests. In fact, at least one September 2017 study has already looked into that. The bad news: Flagging potentially false **headlines** or news sites only works a little, it found. Sometimes the tactic could even backfire.

[15] Platforms also might try to restrict accounts reputed to spread lies, Aral says. But it’s still unclear how successful such actions might be, he adds. Indeed, he notes, “We’re barely starting to scratch the surface on **the scientific evidence** about false news, its consequences and its potential solutions.”

From *Science News for Students*, 2018. © Society for Science & the Public.

## I Reading comprehension

1 Read the text and then circle the right answer. 2 pts (0.5)

### 1. What are scientists studying about fake news?

- A** How fast and far it spreads                      B How it affects people’s actions  
C What people are saying about it              D How many people believe it

### 2. What did scientists learn from their study?

- A Fake news reaches the same number of people as true news stories.  
B Fake news receives more comments from people than true news stories.  
C Fake news travels more quickly than true news stories but doesn’t reach as many people.  
**D** Fake news travels to more people and more quickly than the true news stories.

### 3. People likely spread fake news because they...

- A want to mislead others.                      **B** find the news more interesting.  
C want to keep people informed.              D want to become more popular on social media.

### 4. How do experts suggest the spread of fake news be combated?

- A delete people’s accounts who spread fake news.  
**B** discourage spreading fake news and emphasize true news.  
C employ bots that spread additional true news.  
D prevent people from spreading any type of news.

### 5. Which statement best expresses the central idea of the text?

- A. False news stories will likely never be completely removed from Twitter as people are more interested in false news than true news.

- B.** By studying how false news spreads on Twitter, scientists can better understand why false news is being spread more than true news and how to prevent its distribution.
- C. While some false news stories can cause problems, a majority of false news is harmless and merely meant to entertain the public.
- D. False news stories are usually easy to spot and don't have a large impact on a majority of the users on Twitter.

**6. What is the author's main purpose in the text?**

- A. to show readers how they can identify false news online
- B.** to provide evidence for how false news is spread more than true news
- C. to explore the consequences of false news being spread more than true news
- D. to encourage readers to expose false news online rather than share it

**7. Which statement best describes the relationship between the content of news stories and how they spread?**

- A. Fake news stories that closely resemble real news stories spread more quickly than wild or exciting stories.
- B. True news stories are usually more advanced and difficult to understand and are therefore shared less often.
- C. True news stories often include repeated content that no longer interests users and are therefore not spread.
- D** Fake news stories usually contain more exciting tales that appeal to users and are therefore spread more quickly.

**2 Find in the text words similar in meaning to the following definitions. 1.5 pts (0.5)**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| a Cause disbelief in the accuracy of something | <b>discredit</b> |
| b To deceive or trick                          | <b>to dupe</b>   |
| c Be said or believed to do something          | <b>reputed</b>   |

**II Language structure**

**A Complete the following table with-ing forms from the text.(use the words only once) 2.5 pts (0.25)**

adjective	participle	gerund	
<b>1 disturbing</b> <b>2 exciting</b>	<b>1 becoming</b> <b>2 evaluating</b> <b>3 moving</b> <b>4 indicating</b> <b>5 starting</b>	<b>1 believing</b> <b>2 understanding</b> <b>3 spreading</b> <b>4 sharing</b> <b>5 retweeting</b>	<b>6 understanding</b> <b>7 fighting</b> <b>8 booting off</b> <b>9 flagging</b>

**B Extract from the text two compound nouns and two compound adjectives. 2.5 pts**

- 1 compound nouns: **highlighted in the text** (1.25)
- 2 compound adjectives: in **bold** in the text (1.25)

**C Complete the following extracts with verbs in the correct form. The first letter of the verb is given.**

**A** Internet and social media encourage people **1 to live** in the virtual world and **2 to miss out** on real personal interactions. This technology forces people **3 remain** addicted to this form of interaction. As a result, people avoid **4 visiting** parks clubs and prefer solitude.

**B** Among the respondents being surveyed about "Is technology robbing us our privacy?", more than half of them agreed "people share too much about their personal thoughts or experiences online ; we need **5 to go** .back to **6 being** more private". And it's not just snooping companies and hackers that consumers fear, but also they do **7 worry** about friends or family will share personal information about them online. Around one-third already regret **8 posting** personal information about themselves.

**C** Using the tool palettes in AutoCAD is often a function that is overlooked when using AutoCAD. This function really applies when you want **9 to draw** the same objects repeatedly and you must keep **10 copying** them from one project to another.

**D** Complete the following passage with a word from the box.

anchored	embarking	constraints	upcoming	immersive	persistent	connected
headset	embodying	concretely				

The word metaverse designates a virtual world, or rather a digital and connected universe **1 accessible** with the appropriate equipment, in which users perform actions by **2 embodying** avatars.

In October 2021, Mark Zuckerberg, boss of Meta and Facebook, announced the **3 upcoming** launch of a metaverse, described as the Internet of the future. At the same time, several States are **4 embarking** on comparable projects or providing financial support for research on this subject.

Accessible no longer via screen but using a virtual reality **5 headset**, the metaverse is a network of virtual and **6 persistent** spaces in which users can meet and interact.

The actions carried out in this metaverse are **7 anchored** in reality, with strong interconnection between these two spaces. **8 Concretely**, in this connected universe, it is possible to exercise a profession and therefore earn money, or spend it by buying goods, attending a concert, a cinema screening, etc.

Users can find their relatives, friends and colleagues, there, and live with them an **9 immersive** social experience in virtual reality, without being subjected to physical **10 constraints**.