

# What is the Americans' relationship to the media?

## A Real news vs fake news



### The New York Times

*Before You Buy That Couch',  
an App Will Put it in Your Living Room*

◆ The New York Times, Sept. 16, 2018

1. sofa

Mark Zuckerberg: America Will Elect  
Its Next President via Facebook

◆ Real News Right Now, Apr. 14, 2016

CityWorldNews

Woman Names Her Daughter After Superstore

◆ cityworldnews.com, Apr. 14, 2015,

### NEWS PUNCH

Scientists Discover Mineral That Could  
Make Internet 1,000 Times Faster

◆ Newspunch.com, Nov. 29, 2017



Bioreactor helps  
regrow legs on frogs

◆ Fox News, Nov. 17, 2018

4 NEWS

Man survives bear attack and  
shark bite in one year

◆ NBC News, Apr. 23, 2018

- 1 **PAIR WORK** Read the headlines. Discuss to decide which are real and which are fake.
- 2 Explain why you didn't believe the fake news headlines.
- 3 Write a short paragraph on a forum warning people about fake news. Give examples.



## B Think for yourself



### Classe inversée

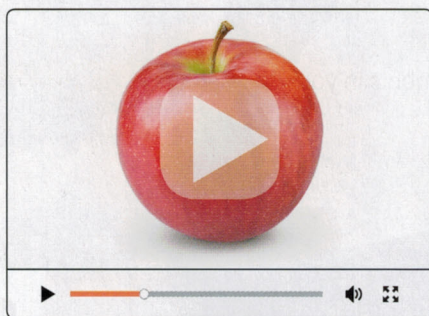
### Vidéo

[hatier-clic.fr/lmu1069](http://hatier-clic.fr/lmu1069)

### E-workbook

Classe inversée

[hatier-clic.fr/lmu1070](http://hatier-clic.fr/lmu1070)



◆ This is an Apple, CNN, 2017

- 1 Identify the type of document.
- 2 Deduce who "some people" are and why they are criticised.
- 3 How does the tone of voice contrast with what is said? Guess the real message.
- 4 Write a tweet advising people to watch this video.



### Word Spot

aim: **objective**, goal  
objectivity ≠ subjectivity  
manipulation /mənɪpjəleɪʃn/  
**credible**: convincing, believable  
far-fetched: incredible,  
improbable  
**biased** /baɪəst/: not objective  
likely, **probable**  
≠ unlikely, improbable

irrelevant ≠ **pertinent**  
**research**: collect information  
**about**  
look for: search for  
look **into**: find out **about**  
check: **verify**  
**question**  
go **further**: get more information  
all **around**: everywhere

### Grammar Spot

Quantifiers → p. 92

"Some people might try to tell  
you that it's a banana."



## C Become a media expert



## GROUP WORK

## HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



## 1 CONSIDER THE SOURCE

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



## 2 READ BEYOND

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



## 3 CHECK THE AUTHOR

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



## 4 SUPPORTING SOURCES?

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



## 5 CHECK THE DATE

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



## 6 IS IT A JOKE?

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

7 CHECK YOUR BIASES<sup>1</sup>

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



## 8 ASK THE EXPERTS

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

IFLA  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

♦ International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 2018

1. proves it is true 2. appropriate 3. bizarre 4. personal opinions that influence your judgment

1 In groups, take notes to be ready to explain three of the symbols in your own words. Give the number of the guideline.

2 Hide the document and listen to the others explain a symbol in turn. Take notes.

3 Without looking at the document, use all of your notes to rewrite the eight guidelines together. Then compare them with the original document.



4 You want to post the guidelines in your school library. Explain to your librarian why it is important, in English or in French.

## E-workbook

Fiche à imprimer

hatier-cluc.fr/lmu1071

## Prepare your project

You are a media expert speaking to a class of American teenagers. Define and give examples of fake news. Warn your audience and give them some tips so they avoid being fooled.

Grammar Tip Précis → p. 237

Use **should** to give advice.

## Memory Challenge



How many pieces of advice about fake news can you write down in two minutes?



## D Teens' views on the news



### Trump Has Changed How Teens View the News

Since President Trump took office, he has relentlessly attacked the media. He's shunned individual reporters, referred to the press as "the enemy of the American people," and popularized the term "fake news" to denigrate credible articles. Meanwhile, public trust in the press is at an all-time low. According to a recent Knight-Gallup report, only a third of Americans view the press positively.

There is increasing evidence that this skepticism, exacerbated by the president's relentless attacks, is trickling down to the next generation of voters.

A 2017 report on a series of focus groups with 52 people between the ages of 14 and 24 conducted by Data & Society and the Knight Foundation, found that many young Americans believe the news is biased and are skeptical of its accuracy. [...]

Teenagers, in particular, appear to be increasingly questioning the credibility and value of traditional media organizations. In interviews with *The Atlantic*, teens expressed great skepticism about the accuracy of the mainstream media [and] reiterated Trump's biased characterization of many news sources. [...]

"I don't believe there [are] any neutral news organizations," said Emma Neely, a 19-year-old in Tennessee.



"Each writer and editor has their own personal bias. What they write, even if it's a little biased, it's still biased."

Angie, a 16-year-old in New York, agreed. She contends that Trump's comments have revealed to people that the news media cannot be trusted. "I think this whole phenomenon has given teens awareness that bias exists and things are not what they seem," she said.

Sally, a 17-year-old in Puerto Rico, said she's learned not to trust the media [...]. "They say what they want to say. I don't feel they say the truth as it is."

Social media has given young people unprecedented access to real-time news. Many teens I spoke with follow the president, other politicians, journalists, and news outlets on Twitter. The ones who don't follow Trump directly all said they were aware of almost everything he tweets thanks to screenshots posted to Snapchat or Instagram.

♦ Taylor Lorenz, *The Atlantic*, August 29, 2018

1. rejected 2. continuous 3. passed on 4. not objective

## Pédagogie différenciée

### TRAIL A

### TRAIL B

1 Read lines 1 to 13. Describe President Trump's vision of the media.

2 Focus on the 2017 report and find out if American teenagers trust the media. Justify your answer with figures from the article.

3 Pick out the names of the teenagers interviewed. Note down the keywords that explain what they think about the media.

1 Explain President Trump's attitude towards the press with examples of what he has done.

2 Find out what the two reports mentioned in the article show.

3 Identify the criticisms teenagers have against the media.



**Meet up!** For your presentation on American media in class, explain how American teenagers access information nowadays and what vision of the news they have.

## Grammar Spot

be + V-ing aspect **Too S** → p. 92

"skepticism (...) is trickling down to the next generation of voters"

## Word Spot

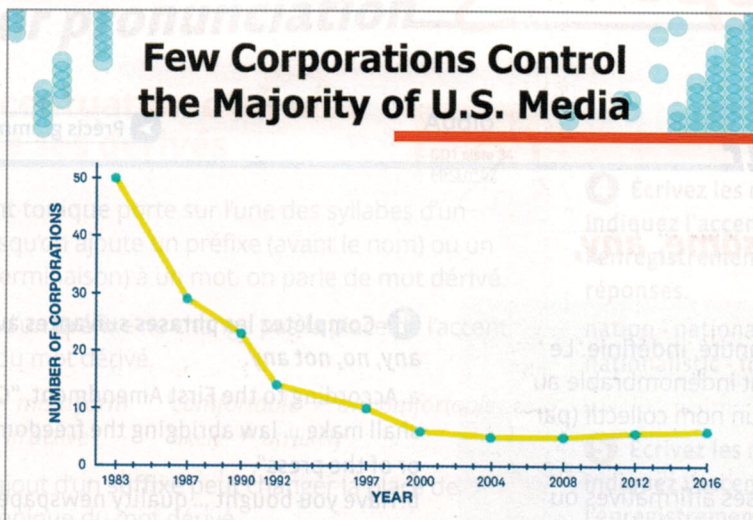
varied: **diverse**  
aware /əweə/ of  
exposed to  
informed  
available: easy or  
possible to get

interested in  
have faith in: trust  
comment on  
share  
disclose: reveal,  
publish /pʌblɪʃ/

tweet  
consult /kən'sʌlt/  
access: get  
leak: give secret  
information  
in touch with



## E Who controls the media?



◆ Stephen Ansolabehere, Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Kenneth A. Shepsle, *American Government: Power and Purpose*, 2017

1 Look at the graph and explain what has happened to the number of companies controlling American media since 1983.

2 Read the text and find information to develop your answer to question 1.

3 Find out in the text if online news is independent.



4 Explain the effect that this concentration of media ownership has on the news that is available. Use these words to write a few sentences.

power - control - decide - influence

In 1983, 50 corporations controlled most of the American media (magazines, books, music, news feeds, newspapers, movies, radio and television).

In 1992, that number had dropped by half.

In 2000, six corporations owned most of the media.

Over time many online news sites which used to be independent have also become properties of the small number of media corporations.

Today five corporations dominate the American media industry:

Time Warner, Disney, Murdoch's News Corporation, Bertelsmann of Germany and Viacom.

## F Whistleblowers



### Vidéo

[hatier-clic.fr/lmu1072](http://hatier-clic.fr/lmu1072)

### E-workbook

Fiche à imprimer

[hatier-clic.fr/lmu1073](http://hatier-clic.fr/lmu1073)

1 Identify people, places and news outlets.

2 Who and what are the American news presenters talking about and how do they sound? Take notes.

3 Find out what type of shocking information WikiLeaks published.



4 Explain this event to your friend and show why the American media and society were so perturbed by this event.

### Culture Tip

The first three estates (powers) in the USA are the executive, the legislative and the judiciary. The media are commonly called **the fourth estate**. The internet media are considered to be **the fifth estate**.

**WikiLeaks** is an international, non-profit organisation that publishes secret information, classified documents and news leaks, from anonymous sources on its website. **Julian Assange**, an Australian internet activist, is considered to be its founder. The people who release secret information are called **whistleblowers**.



## Prepare your project



Write a short article for your school newspaper with the following title: "What's new about the news in the USA?"

### Grammar Tip

Précis → p. 241 and 239

Use the **preterite** to talk about how things were in the past and the **simple present** to talk about current habits and realities.

## Memory Challenge



Make a list of 10 words that are indispensable when talking about the media. You have one minute! Compare your list with your classmates'.