Which face is real?

Learn to spot fake faces at a glance in 90 seconds
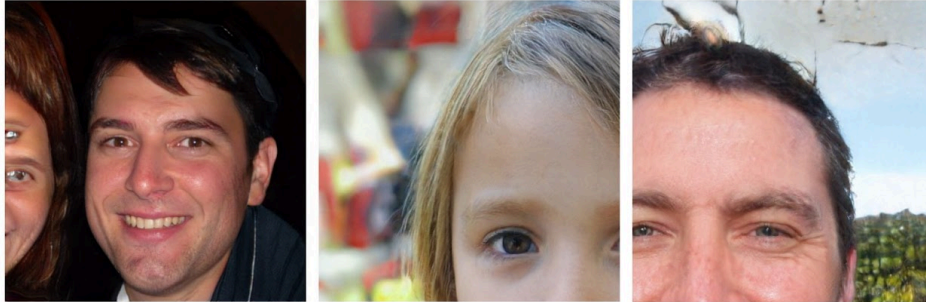
Siddharth Kumar

Water-splotches

These are a dead giveaway. Water splotches can appear anywhere in the image, but often show up at the interface between the hair and the background.

Background problems

The neural net is trained on the face and doesn't pay as much attention to what is going on at the sides. At the very worst, you get some extremely odd companions, as in the first picture below. Sometimes you just get chaotic cubist forms. And sometimes the background looks almost like a torn photograph.
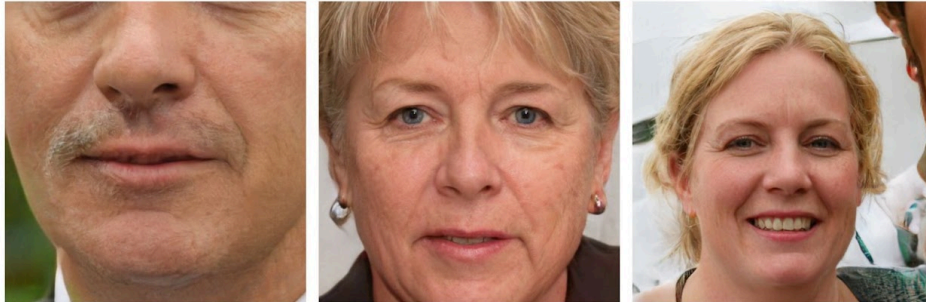
Eyeglasses

Look at the frame structure; often the frame will take one style at the left and another at the right, or there will be a wayfarer-style ornament on one side but not on the other. Other times the frame will just be crooked or jagged.
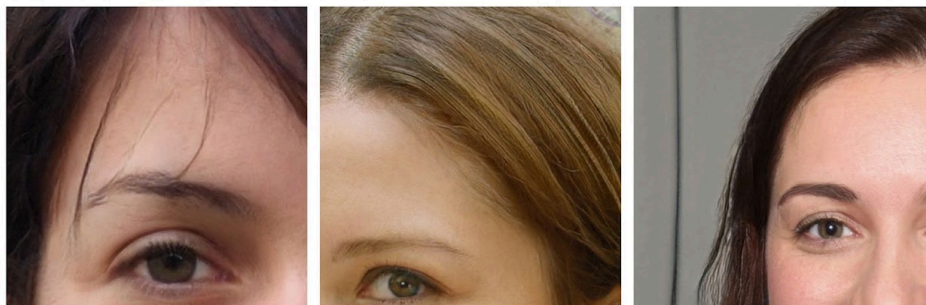
Other asymmetries

In general, symmetry is a challenge for the facial generation algorithms. In additional to asymmetry eyeglasses, be on the lookout for asymmetries in facial hair, different earrings in the left and right ear, and different forms of collar or fabric on the left and right side.

Hair

Hair is extremely difficult to render realistically. Sometimes there will be disconnected strands of hair on the face or elsewhere, as in other first image below. Other times the hair will be too straight, streaked
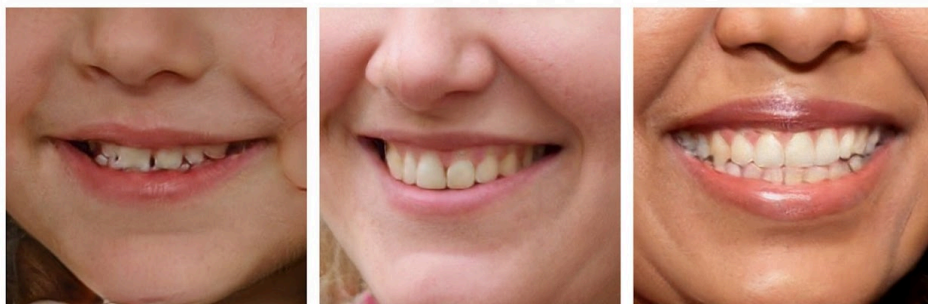
Fluorescent bleed

Teeth

Teeth are not easy to render. Often teeth are odd or asymmetric. In some cases, you may even see three incisors as in the final photograph below.

Signs that a photograph is *real*

symmetric eyeglasses and earrings (first image below), actual human-looking companions at the side of a photograph (second image below), and detailed backgrounds especially if there is readable text (third image below)