**Fake news: What is it? And how to spot it**

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Lots of us like to share things on social media or talk to our friends about things we've seen online, but do you always make sure it's true before you share it?

**Many of us like to share news and stories on social media with our friends.**

We all share things for different reasons. Perhaps it's an interesting story, news about a celebrity that you like, or something that made you laugh.

But when you see something you like online, do you check to make sure that it's true before you share it?

Not everything that we read or see on the internet is true - and if it isn't, and we share it, we could be making more people believe something that is actually made up.

Stories like this are called **fake news** and they can be a problem.

**What is fake news?**

Fake news is news or stories on the internet that are not true.

There are two kinds of fake news:

1. False stories that are **deliberately published** or sent around, in order to make people believe something untrue or to get lots of people to visit a website. These are deliberate lies that are put online, even though the person writing them knows that they are made up.
2. Stories that *may*have some truth to them, but they're **not completely accurate**. This is because the people writing them - for example, journalists or bloggers - don't check *all*of the facts before publishing the story, or they might exaggerate some of it.

It is happening a lot at the moment, with many people publishing these stories in order to get as many shares as possible.