

What is Fake News and How Do I Spot It?



It seems like everyone is talking about fake news these days but how can I tell what is fake?

You are not alone.

A study found that Facebook users over 65 shared seven times more fake news than younger users. Find out what fake news really is and how you can avoid falling for it.



What is Fake News?

Fake news is stories created to confuse and deceive people. These stories are meant to influence opinions, make money, or push political agendas.

Different Forms of Fake News

- Falsehoods or untruths take a genuine story and add false information.
- Some fake news stories change dates, and alter photos or videos to serve the false story.
- Propaganda or hate speech stories falsely attack a person or group based on race, religion, gender, or other attributes in order to change the way you think about targeted groups.

Why Does Fake News Spread?

Fake news is not new, but the internet and social media have made spreading false claims much faster for several reasons.

1. Anyone can post anything on the internet and social media quickly and easily. There is no fact checking agency that prohibits people from posting untruths.
2. It can be hard to spot falsities online for people newer to social media as opposed to the more familiar tabloid magazine.
3. Some people share stories online to connect with others. Browsing, posting and commenting on social media can make isolated individuals feel social so they may not properly investigate the stories they share.
4. Scam news stories may prey on fear to encourage sharing false information.





How Do I Spot Fake News?

Ask yourself these questions when you see information online:

- Who wrote the article? Is it a reliable news source? What else has the author written?
- How recent is the information?
- What other sources are reporting this story?
- What sources are referenced in the story?
- Who could this benefit? Is the story sponsored by a company or is it selling something? Does it harm a group of people?

Stop the Spread

Do not share questionable or unverified stories; this is how fake news continues to spread on the internet. Confirm stories using these unbiased websites: politifact.com, factcheck.org, and truthorfiction.org.

Test Your Fake News Knowledge

1. Teenager fined £100 for feeding pigeon

Real Fake

2. German police rescued man chased by baby squirrel

Real Fake

3. Skittles used to clear icy roads

Real Fake

4. Canadian zoo fined after ice cream outing with bear

Real Fake

1. Real, as reported by the BBC and ITV.
2. Real, as reported by the Guardian and the BBC. The chase ended when the baby squirrel curled up and fell asleep.
3. Fake, use of altered pictures.
4. Real, video evidence reported by the Guardian, Sky News and the CBC.

How can CJE SeniorLife help?

We can refer you to the following CJE SeniorLife supportive resources:

Community Engagement—We provide education—geared toward your unique group—on well-being, emergency planning, physical, mental and financial health and many other subject areas.

Counseling Services—Our highly-skilled Licensed Clinical Social Workers are specialists in the field of mental health services for seniors. We offer individual, family and group psychotherapy, as well as support groups.

CJE Care Management—We make assessments, develop Care Plans and refer clients to free and low-cost services. Must meet financial eligibility.

Your Eldercare Consultants—We work collaboratively with physicians, develop Care Plans, coordinate home care, guide families and find practical resources that support independence. Ongoing services are fee-based.

Consumer Assistance—We are resource specialists available to help you identify and apply for the broadest possible range of benefits and support services available to older adults.

To find out more about our many services and programs, Call CJE SeniorLife at 773.508.1000.

THE CJE ADVANTAGE: Our broad continuum of care offers people of all ages, faiths and incomes access to life-enriching opportunities, resources and healthcare. Our Jewish values make us the provider of choice for enhancing lives and navigating the positive aging process.

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CJE SeniorLife® is a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

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