

 MediaLiteracyCouncilSG  
www.betterinternet.sg

BE SMART

# QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU SPOT FAKE NEWS



DO WHAT'S RIGHT ONLINE

-  **QUESTION**  
the source
-  **VERIFY**  
the information
-  **CHECK**  
with experts



Organised by:



Supported by:



In association with:

**SG:D | GET READY!**

 **CHECK  
Please!**  
Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Kind.



# Before we trust or click, **CHECK PLEASE!**

If you read an article, see a photo, or watch a video that you are unsure about its authenticity, ask yourself these questions to help you decide if the news is real or fake.

## 01 WHO MADE THIS?

This question encourages you to check who wrote an article, conducted a survey, or posted a video, which you can do through a quick online search. It is important to know if the creator of a story is a reliable source and to find their biases. Everyone has some, making it more important to know what they are than try to find someone without any.

## 02 WHO IS IT FOR?

All stories are written with a target audience in mind, which often changes how information is framed in the story. Searching the site is the easiest way to find out who their audience is, then keep this in mind while understanding the information.

## 03 WHO GETS PAID?

Almost all news outlets and writers are paid for their work: they gain advertising revenue when readers click their articles, and the agencies are likely funded by larger corporations. Being aware of these sources can reveal a lot about who has the power to frame or produce a story.

## 04 WHO GAINS OR LOSES?

All news stories make points which have an impact, no matter how small, on the real world. When reading, take note of who may benefit or face a loss because of the story's impact and decide whether you are comfortable with this. This also keeps you aware of how your own behaviour or thoughts are impacted by the news.

## 05 IS SOMETHING MISSING?

Consider whether a story has glaring or subtle omissions. For example, it may provide survey results without fully explaining who or how many people were surveyed. Alternatively, it may provide a quote without the context in which it was said. These omissions exist because writers want to lead readers towards 'straightforward' conclusions. As a reader, question what other information could have been provided, and why it was not.

BREAKING NEWS

### Whales Spotted in Reservoir!

Singapore | Today 02:41pm

