



# Fake News



Coronavirus fake news information  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52537443>

How to spot fake virus news  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52096366>

Twinkl Fake News interactive quiz  
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/go/resource/interactive-fake-news-quick-quiz-tg2-e-62>



# What is Fake News?

‘**Fake** News’ grew in notoriety in 2016 during the US Presidential Elections although it has been around for a long time...probably as long as politics has been around.


It is what it says in the title: news that is fake/not true/made up.

It works by shocking people into reading it in the same way that gossip works.

**Think about how gossip or rumours work...**

- Are they usually totally true?
- How many people are usually involved – a few or many?
- Is it nice for the person being gossiped about? Why?
- Why might someone gossip or spread rumours?

Think About It



# Why Do People Make It?

Fake News is usually created to grab people's attention; those who make it want as many readers as possible:

- to make money by advertising to all the people that look at the page/article;
- to make a person, argument or cause look better;
- simply to trick people.

**Social media has meant that fake news spreads much more quickly, particularly during the lock down period.**

## How do you think fake news makes people feel?

**Fake news can make people feel more anxious and worried. They can make people feel angry and they might lose trust in the media (news/tv/paper)**

# Why now?

Fake news can rise in times of Global crisis. This is because people naturally feel threatened and like they don't have control over things. We look for explanations to what is happening and why, meaning we see a lot more news: real and fake.

Here are some of the fake news stories that we've seen recently:

The army are closing  
London!

World toilet paper  
shortage!

Hot drinks kill the virus!

Drink  
cure

**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!**

an

The virus is fake!

The virus will turn you  
into a zombie!



# Even these!

[Click here to find out more...](#)



SONY



Microsoft

From Monday 23/3/2020 until the foreseeable future, Microsoft and Sony have agreed to shut down their gaming servers during uk school hours. This is to enable children to focus on their school work

**NEWS** Gaming servers shutdown  
10:32 **HEADLINES** Joint statement from Microsoft and Sony



# Be Alert...Rules For Spotting Fake News

1. If it sounds too amazing or too shocking to be true – it probably is.
2. Has the story been on the main news channels, the broadsheet newspapers, the school website or other sources you know you can trust?
3. Check 'facts' on trusted websites. For example, checking space 'facts' on NASA's website.
4. Do an Internet search of the news title or website along with the word 'fake' or 'scam'. It may tell you from trusted sites that it's a well-known fake news story.
5. Look at the website, does it look real? Check the website address at the very top of the page- does it end .com .co.uk .org, or something else?
6. Check the date of the story, something that was true then may not be now.

[Click here for more...](#)

# Quiz!

Can you spot the 'fake news'?

[Click here to find out...](#)





# What is a conspiracy theory?

Have you ever heard of the word conspiracy before?

A conspiracy theory is slightly different to fake news. It is when someone shares their belief that someone in power has plotted something in secret for their own gain. It's quite often a way to place blame on someone or a group of people. During the coronavirus pandemic, this has continued to happen and is quite often shared on social media.

Among others, conspiracy theorists have placed blame on:

- Bill Gates
- Chinese scientists
- 5G
- UK government

# COVID-19 conspiracies...

**Bill Gates is responsible for the virus!**

**FALSE** 5 years ago, Bill Gates spoke about the next great world challenge being a virus, rather than war. Theorists decided that he was responsible for the virus and was trying to sell a vaccine to make money.



**Chinese scientists are responsible for the virus!**

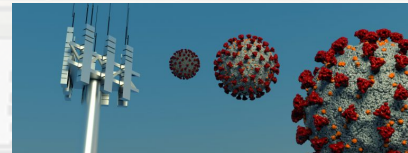
**FALSE** Some theorists believe the virus was leaked by a Chinese lab where it was being created as a weapon. There is **no** scientific evidence to support this.

China has often wrongly been blamed for coronavirus, as this happens to be where the virus started. This hasn't been helped by some world leaders, such as Trump, referring to it as 'the Chinese virus'.

# COVID-19 conspiracies...

## 5G caused the coronavirus!

**FALSE** Theorists have wrongly believed that 5G (new, speedier phone internet) has caused Coronavirus. They incorrectly believe that the invisible radio waves are too powerful and weakens our immune systems, making us more unwell. In fact, the radiation levels are well within the safe range. This was particularly damaging as people saw these theories and set fire to phone masts, wrongly believing they were for 5G. Actually, this meant that many people were not able to use their mobile phones – not good in a crisis!



## The government are making it up!

**FALSE** Astonishingly, some people even believe that the coronavirus is completely fake and the government were using it as an excuse to control a country. The World Health Organisation, among many other official sources, have worked hard to give us the **real** facts and information.

