



KEEP IT REAL

5 Fact-Checking Tips from Britannica

False information spreads quickly—whether through technology or word of mouth. Navigating truth in today's fast-paced world requires sharp skills and smart strategies. With 250 years of experience in offering reliable knowledge, Britannica offers these tips to help you think critically and stay informed.

1

Choose your sources wisely.

Some sources are more reliable than others. Look for websites that carefully check their facts, like those ending in .edu or .gov. Whenever possible, use primary sources, like official reports or research studies, instead of summaries or secondhand stories.

2

Ask questions first.

Be careful with big claims, general statements, or things that seem too good to be true. To find out if the author might be leaving out important details, distorting the truth, or pushing their own agenda, always cross-check with other trusted sources to get the full picture.

3

Verify images and headlines.

Photos and headlines can be tricky. Images might be created or edited using artificial intelligence, and headlines often leave out important details. Use tools like reverse image search or fact-checking websites to confirm their validity. Always read past the headline to understand the full story.

4

Understand the bigger picture.

Facts don't exist on their own—they're part of a bigger story. Look at when, where, and why something was written. Without context, even real facts can be twisted into false information—also known as misinformation. Always read 'around the facts' to see how they fit into the complete story.

5

Think before you share.

Before you share something, take a moment to ask yourself, Do I know this is true? If you're unsure, take some time to check the facts. Sharing false information can have serious consequences, so make sure to verify before passing information along.



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Can You Spot the Truth?

Have you ever heard something that sounded unbelievable? Sometimes things we see or hear aren't true, but they can spread super fast! Knowing how to find the truth takes smart thinking and clever tricks. Britannica, with 250 years of trusted knowledge, is here to share five tips to help you stay sharp and informed.

1

Pick good sources.

Some websites are better than others. Look for those that end in .gov, .edu, or .org because they usually check their facts carefully. If you can, go straight to the source, like a report or study, instead of reading a summary.

2

Ask questions.

If something sounds unbelievable or way too good to be true, stop and think. Ask yourself questions like, Who wrote this? or Where did this information come from? Then check other trusted sources to see if they say the same thing.

3

Check photos and headlines.

Pictures and headlines can be tricky! A photo might be edited or made by a computer. Headlines don't always tell the full story. Use tools like reverse image search to find out where a picture comes from. Make sure to read the whole story, not just the headline.

4

Look at the big picture.

Facts don't exist on their own—they are part of a bigger story. Look at when, where, and why something was written. Without knowing the answers to these three questions, even true facts can be twisted into misinformation. Always read 'around the facts' to see how they fit into the full story.

5

Think before you share.

Before you share something with others, stop and ask yourself, Is this true? If you're not sure, take some time to check the facts. Sharing wrong information can confuse people, so it's always a good idea to double-check first.

