

# Smell Something Fishy?

## Stop. Think. Check.



*Here's how to sniff out the truth...*



1

Type the exact headline into a search engine. A fact-checking website may have already investigated.

2

Look for other media on the same topic. Have reliable sources written about this, too?

3

Check the date. Is this really news? If it's old, is it still relevant?

4

**Research the source.**

**Websites:** Look at other stories on the site. Are there multiple authors? A "contact us" page? Is it selling something?

**Search the author's name.** Are they credible? Are they real? If no author name is provided, that's a red flag.

**Social media:** How recently was the account created? What else has been posted? Do they post a lot? At all times of the day and night? It could be a robot account...

**Images:** Do a reverse image search.

5

Follow the links provided. Are they from reliable sources?

6

Ask an expert/adult.

There are 300 fact-checking organisations around the world.

**PLUS**

Librarians are research experts. Teachers are pretty smart, too!

### Just Not Cricket?

#### Teacher Notes

Explain to students that The Ashes is a fierce cricketing rivalry held periodically between the Australian and English cricket teams. Cricket is thought of by many as a 'gentleman's' game, and the 'spirit of the game' is considered to be important. Discuss what this means.

Explain that a batter can get out in a number of ways, and one of them is by the ball hitting the stumps when the batter is outside of their crease (a line they must stand behind).

Show this video of Australian wicket, keeper Alex Carey stumping English batter, Jonny Bairstow. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkAHxxL4kSc>

Talk through what happens in the video and how the Australian fans might feel about it versus what the English fans might think.

Ask your students to take a look at the two newspaper sports pages on the following page. Students can discuss and write their answers to the following questions:

- Where does each newspaper come from?
- Who produced them?
- Who is their audience?
- Why did they make it?
- Who pays for it?
- What is the message?

Students should identify specific images or graphics that the newspaper has used to support their story.

Deep thinking questions:

- Why is it important that we understand who produces news and content that we see online?
- Are the accounts in both newspapers true? If so, how can they be so different?
- Is everything that is published in newspapers or online necessarily true?
- How can we check whether we should believe what we see, read or hear?

### Just Not Cricket?



Where is the newspaper from?

Who made it?

Who is their audience?

Why did they make it?

Who pays for it?

What is the message?

Notice the language:

Notice the images:

Where is the newspaper from?

Who made it?

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What is the message?

Notice the language:

Notice the images:



# It's All In The Presentation

## Teacher Notes

Information can be presented differently depending on what outcome the publisher is hoping to achieve. Emotive language, images and colours can be used to persuade a viewer to a particular point of view.

*New 'Moonwalker' skates have been created to increase the speed that pedestrians can travel at, while reducing their energy output.*

Show this video from the creator of the skates. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8r0TPD5NUQ0&t=20s>

Students will either create:

- a magazine advertisement to help sell the product; or
- a poster warning people to take care using the product.

Before they start, have students work with a partner/group to answer the questions on the next page. Think hard about who the audience is, what the purpose is of the media that they're creating, and the choices they'll make about language, tone, and facts to highlight.

## Moonwalkers: Just the Facts

- A strap-on design allows them to be used with almost any pair of shoes.
- Each moonwalker has 8 wheels. They are positioned so the wearer is able to balance easily.
- Sensors monitor the walker's gait and the speed increases or decreases automatically with the speed of their steps.
- A hinged toe flexes the same way that a normal shoe does.
- The Moonwalker designer claims they can increase normal walking speed by 250%. So, if you normally walk at 4 kilometres per hour, Moonwalkers would increase your speed to 10 kilometres per hour.
- The battery range is about 10 kilometres.
- They're only small, so you could keep them in your school bag when you're not using them.
- When they're released they will cost about \$1,500 a pair.

### It's All In The Presentation

What is your teacher having you produce?

An advertisement to sell the product.

A poster warning people to take care when using the product.

Who is your audience?

What message do you want your piece of media to send?

Which words, tone, pictures, would suit your purpose?

Which information from "The Facts" will be most helpful to your purpose?

Final Product



# Fake News

## Teacher Notes

We can't trust everything we see, read or hear online. Some people might post false information for profit or with malicious intentions, while others might simply share false information without having checked whether or not it is true.

Explain to students the difference between 'misinformation' and 'disinformation'.

**Misinformation:** Incorrect information that's spread by someone who doesn't know it's false, and isn't trying to do any harm.

**Disinformation:** Incorrect information that's intentionally created and shared.

The main reasons people create and share disinformation are:

- To make money
- To get support for their organisation or cause
- To damage someone's reputation



Share this headline and image with your students.

## Major Highway Accident After Man Stops in Middle of Highway to Catch Pikachu!

After they've had a look, share this background information with them.

*This news post that went viral claimed someone playing Pokemon Go caused a multi-vehicle traffic accident by walking onto the highway to catch a Pikachu. It was published to damage the reputation of a game that, at the time, many people were concerned could lead to accidents. It also earned money for its creators, because of click through ads.*

Ask your students to work with a partner to identify whether this is misinformation or disinformation and explain why.

Students can also identify the reason/s the fake news was created.

Extra research question: How do websites and social media accounts make money from posting fake news?

### Fake News

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#### Major Highway Accident After Man Stops in Middle of Highway to Catch Pikachu!



### Stop. Think. Check.

**Background:**

- At the time this was published, many people were concerned that Pokémon Go could cause accidents.
- The story originated on a site known for publishing fake news, luring people into clicking on them to make money from ads.
- The photograph is actually of an accident that happened two years earlier due to icy roads.

**Verdict:**

- Misinformation  
 Disinformation

**Why Did The Fakers Do It?**

- Money  
 Damage Someone's Reputation  
 Get Support for Their Team





# NEWSHOUNDS

BY SQUIZ  
KIDS

Join Squiz-E The Newshound on his quest to sniff out fishy things on the internet. Learn to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything you see, read and hear online. Find out more or sign up at <https://www.squizkids.com.au/about-newshounds/>

