

CAN YOU SPOT FAKE NEWS?

You see a story online that immediately makes your heart race—but is it real?
Slick design is no giveaway. Instead, look out for these signs it's a fake:

URL: It's a close-but-no-banana copy of a well-known site, like NBCNews.com.co instead of NBCNews.com, or it has an unusual ending, like "lo" or "su".

Vet it: Put the legit organization's name into Google and compare URLs, or check a suspicious URL on a trusted fact-checking site like Snopes.com or Factcheck.org.

"ABOUT US" SECTION: Most trusted sites will state clearly who's behind them and how to get in contact. So if there isn't one—or a site makes you register to get that info—it's a red flag. You should also watch out for any site that says it is humor, satire, or fantasy.

nbcnews.com.co

NBC-NEWS

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

HEALTH



PHOTO: There's no credit or copyright info saying who took it and where, or it features racy, unrelated photos, like shots of women in bikinis on an alleged news site.

Vet it: Left-click it with your mouse and drop down to "Search Google for image." If the same photo shows up on a lot of other unrelated sites and stories, chances are it was copied and repurposed here.

NEW RESEARCH:

CHOCOLATE CAN CURE ACNE

AMAZING NEWS FOR TEENS WITH PIMPLES! A BRAND NEW STUDY SAYS A CHOCOLAT BAR EACH DAY WILL MAKE YOU FOREVER. EXPERTS TELL U

HEADLINE: It's an OMG-worthy gut punch that you desperately want to be true or untrue.

Vet it: Search the headline in another tab. If it's true, there should be other credible outlets reporting the news. If not, add the word "hoax" to your search. Anything come up?

STORY TEXT: It includes ALL CAPS, has obvious spelling or grammatical errors, and doesn't cite sources. (Most legit stories will say where they got their facts.)

OFFER OF THE DAY

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POP-UP ADS: You try to go to the site but get hit by a barrage of pop-up ads, one after the other. (Most reputable sites limit theirs to one or two, so as not to drive you away.)