

# 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**

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**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?

**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.

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**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.)

**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.)