

Fact-Checking Guide

How to Investigate a News Story: Use this checklist to fact-check news snippets before deciding whether it is **true** or **false**.

Step 1: Check the Source

What is the name of the website, newspaper, or source that published the article?
Is this source reputable? (Check if it's well-known for factual reporting)
Has this source spread misinformation in the past?
Can you find this story on other trustworthy news websites?

Step 2: Check the Author

Who wrote the article? (Check the byline)
Does the author have a history of writing fact-based news?
Can you find the author's credentials or past work?
Is the author affiliated with any organization that might bias their writing?

Step 3: Scrutinize the Date

When was the article published?
Is the information outdated? (Check if newer reports confirm or contradict it)
Has the article been republished or edited without clear updates?

Step 4: Analyse the Context

What is the main claim of the article?
Does the article provide evidence (e.g., data, expert quotes, scientific research)?
Are there any red flags like sensationalist language, conspiracy theories, or lack of sources?
Does the article mention where the event happened? Can you verify it from local sources?

Step 5: Cross-Check with Other Sources

Can you find the same news story on multiple reputable news sites?
Have fact-checking websites (e.g., Snopes, FactCheck.org) investigated this claim?
Is there an official statement from experts, government sources, or researchers?

Step 6: Make Your Decision

Does the evidence support the claim in the news snippet?
Based on research, is this story TRUE or FALSE ?