

ENHANCING DIGITAL READINESS BY OVERCOMING FAKE
NEWS, INFORMATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA
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UnfakeSoMe Games

Social Media Simulation Busted!- A Fake News Word Search

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Game Title	Busted! – A Fake News Word Search
About the Game	A fast-paced word search that sharpens media literacy skills. Players hunt for terms linked to fake news, misinformation, and media manipulation. Can you bust them all?
Objective	Find hidden words related to misinformation, fake news, media manipulation, and social media, while strengthening critical thinking and digital literacy skills.
Players	Individual or small groups (2–6 players)
Age Group	14+
Game Duration	10–15 minutes
Setup	1. Print the word search grid. 2. Give each player/team a copy. 3. Provide pens/highlighters.
How to Play	1. Find all the hidden words. 2. Words can be placed horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards, or backwards. 3. Circle or highlight each word. 4. Bonus: Discuss meanings after the search.

Instruction Guide

Step	Facilitator Says/Does
1. Setup	"Welcome! Each of you gets a word search grid. The words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and even backwards. Grab a pen or highlighter and get ready."
2. Starting the Game	"Your task is to find all the hidden words related to media literacy, misinformation, and social media. Some words may be tricky — look in every direction!"
3. Gameplay Flow	"Start searching now. You can work alone or discuss with others. If a word is unfamiliar, feel free to ask or look it up. Remember, this is about learning as much as winning."
4. Announce Completion	"Raise your hand when you finish. Let's check together if all the words were found correctly. For extra challenge, can anyone define the words they've found?"
5. Post-Game Reflection	"Which words were hardest to find? Were there any terms that were new to you? How do these terms apply to the information you see online or on social media?"

Scoring

Category	Points
Words Found	All – +5 Missed 1–2 – +3 Missed 3+ – +1
Speed Bonus	If finished within set time – +2
Meaning Bonus	If explained 3 or more terms correctly – +2
Teamwork Bonus	If collaborated, discussed, or helped others – +1
Total Per Round	Maximum 10 points

Scoring Sheet

Round	Player/Team Name	Words Found (5)	Speed Bonus (2)	Meaning Bonus (2)	Teamwork Bonus (1)	Total (10)
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Post Game Questions

Reflection Area	Questions	Your Thoughts / Notes
Media Awareness	Which word surprised you the most?	
	Which word felt most relevant to your social media use?	
Recognition Skills	Are these terms easy or hard to notice when you're actually online?	
	Which types of misinformation do you think are most common?	
Personal Impact	Have you seen examples of these in your social media feed?	
	Did you ever believe something false before learning how to check?	
Skill Application	How can you apply what you've learned from this game in real life?	
	What steps will you take next time before sharing something online?	
Critical Thinking	Why do you think misinformation spreads so quickly?	
	What can people do to stop fake news from spreading?	

Learning Outcomes

1. Familiarise themselves with key media literacy terms and misinformation-related vocabulary.
→ Strengthen basic understanding of critical media concepts by locating and recognising terms.
2. Develop foundational awareness of misinformation, media manipulation, and online safety concepts.
→ Encounter terms that introduce important themes such as fact-checking, bias, deepfakes, and clickbait.
3. Enhance word recognition, concentration, and pattern recognition skills.
→ Practice attention to detail in a playful, low-pressure environment.
4. Build curiosity and interest in exploring deeper media literacy topics.
→ Serve as an entry point for participants to engage with more complex media literacy discussions and games.
5. Support informal learning through a fun, interactive vocabulary-building exercise.
→ Reinforce terminology that can be applied in further learning or discussions.

Material Required

1. Spot the Fake – Misinformation & Disinformation Terms

M	I	S	L	E	A	D	X	R	U	T	A	I	B
O	A	F	A	K	E	B	S	P	A	M	E	O	U
H	O	A	X	M	D	I	S	I	N	F	O	R	M
F	T	R	O	L	L	P	M	O	U	T	N	U	C
A	S	C	A	M	U	E	A	L	N	A	E	M	Y
B	M	O	F	D	N	T	U	L	I	B	V	O	T
R	A	B	O	T	I	O	P	A	C	I	S	U	I
I	K	F	A	L	S	E	T	T	L	L	O	R	N
C	A	O	N	A	U	L	A	I	A	E	Q	T	M
A	X	M	A	N	I	P	U	L	A	T	E	L	P
T	E	N	I	C	A	F	A	R	I	A	W	V	G
E	O	P	D	E	E	P	F	A	K	E	T	Z	D

Find the following words:

HOAX

MISLEAD

FAKE

SPAM

SCAM

BOT

DEEPFAKE

FALSE

FABRICATE

TROLL

RUMOUR

DISINFORM

MANIPULATE

2. Media Smarts – Media Literacy & Social Media Terms

F	I	L	T	E	R	L	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
A	L	G	O	R	I	T	H	M	V	U	Q	W	E	R	T
C	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	D	S	N	S	Y	C	Z	L
T	R	Y	T	I	L	I	B	I	D	E	O	U	H	X	K
C	R	E	D	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y	U	I	O	C	J
H	A	E	R	B	M	A	H	C	O	H	R	O	C	V	H
E	D	H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	C	C	P	H	B	G
C	Y	B	E	R	B	U	L	L	Y	K	E	S	A	N	F
K	I	R	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y	B	G	A	M	M	D
B	V	I	R	A	L	T	X	T	C	A	H	S	B	O	T
A	V	E	R	I	F	Y	R	J	B	I	J	D	E	P	Y
I	C	L	I	C	K	B	A	I	T	T	M	F	R	A	O

Find the following words:

ALGORITHM

SOURCE

VERIFY

HEADLINE

CLICKBAIT

CREDIBILITY

FACTCHECK

PRIVACY

COMMUNITY

CYBERBULLY

FILTER

ECHOCHAMBER

CONNECT

VIRAL

Answer Key

1. Spot the Fake – Misinformation & Disinformation Terms

M	I	S	L	E	A	D	X	R	U	T	A	I	B
O	A	F	A	K	E	B	S	P	A	M	E	O	U
H	O	A	X	M	D	I	S	I	N	F	O	R	M
F	T	R	O	L	L	P	M	O	U	T	N	U	C
A	S	C	A	M	U	E	A	L	N	A	E	M	Y
B	M	O	F	D	N	T	U	L	I	B	V	O	T
R	A	B	O	T	I	O	P	A	C	I	S	U	I
I	K	F	A	L	S	E	T	T	L	L	O	R	N
C	A	O	N	A	U	L	A	I	A	E	Q	T	M
A	X	M	A	N	I	P	U	L	A	T	E	L	P
T	E	N	I	C	A	F	A	R	I	A	W	V	G
E	O	P	D	E	E	P	F	A	K	E	T	Z	D

2. Media Smarts – Media Literacy & Social Media Terms

F	I	L	T	E	R	L	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
A	L	G	O	R	I	T	H	M	V	U	Q	W	E	R	T
C	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	D	S	N	S	Y	C	Z	L
T	R	Y	T	I	L	I	B	I	D	E	O	U	H	X	K
C	R	E	D	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y	U	I	O	C	J
H	A	E	R	B	M	A	H	C	O	H	R	O	C	V	H
E	D	H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	C	C	P	H	B	G
C	Y	B	E	R	B	U	L	L	Y	K	E	S	A	N	F
K	I	R	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y	B	G	A	M	M	D
B	V	I	R	A	L	T	X	T	C	A	H	S	B	O	T
A	V	E	R	I	F	Y	R	J	B	I	J	D	E	P	Y
I	C	L	I	C	K	B	A	I	T	T	M	F	R	A	O