

Safer Internet Day 2021

What is Safer Internet Day all About?

Safer Internet Day started in 2005 and now happens in over 100 countries around the world. It aims to help young people to use the Internet safely and make good choices online. This year, it is happening on Tuesday 9th February and the theme is 'An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.



An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World - What Does the Safer Internet Day 2021 Theme Mean?

The Internet is a great place to chat to friends and find out interesting and fun stuff. But how do we know the difference between what is fact and fiction?



Some Uses of the Internet:

- gaming
- shopping
- learning new things
- reading about famous people
- booking tickets
- chatting to friends

Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems. The online world also contains fake news and misleading content, which can affect young people's decisions, views and opinions.

What Is Fake News?

Fake news is false information that claims to be true and reliable news.



Is it true?



The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on supporting young people to be able to decide what they can trust online. It aims to help them to feel more comfortable at separating fact from fiction and to develop skills to be able to make the best decisions while online.

How Is Fake News Harmful?

Fake news is harmful because it:

- affects our views;
- breaks the trust we have of all people in the media, even though many are reporting honestly;
- causes people to act on false information.

How to Spot Fake News

Being able to spot whether content is fact or fiction is difficult and something that even adults can find tricky. Here is a guide to help you spot fake news.

journalist - A person who writes news for newspapers, magazines or news websites.

- Who is reporting the story? Check that a trustworthy news channel is reporting the story, such as the BBC.
- Is there an author or **journalist** name? If not, it could be suspicious.
- What is the domain name? Fake news stories will often have a strange domain name. Websites ending in .com.co are often fake versions of real sites.
- Does it seem professional? Bad web design, as well as poor spelling, punctuation and grammar, might mean it's fake news.
- Don't just believe the first thing you read is true; read stories from different places to get a range of viewpoints.

Questions

1. When is Safer Internet Day celebrated this year? Tick one.

Tuesday 10th February

Thursday 9th February

Tuesday 9th February

Tuesday 19th February

2. Mark whether the statements about Safer Internet Day are **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Safer Internet Day started in 2006.		
It happens in over 100 countries around the world.		
It aims to help young people to use the Internet safely and make good choices online.		

3. What is the theme for Safer Internet Day 2021? Tick one.

an Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

be safe on the Internet

an Internet we use: finding facts online

fake news is bad

4. Explain in your own words how the theme of Safer Internet Day 2021 aims to help young people online.

5. What is fake news? Fill in the missing words.

Fake news is _____ information that claims to be true and _____ news.

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'honest and reliable'.

7. How can you spot fake news? Tick **two**.

If there is an author or journalist name, it could be suspicious.

Poor web design, spelling, punctuation and grammar might mean it's fake news.

If there is not an author or journalist name, it could be suspicious.

If the article is older than one year.

Safer Internet Day 2021

What is Safer Internet Day all about?

Safer Internet Day started in 2005 and now happens in over 100 countries worldwide, every February. It aims to help young people to keep themselves safe online by making responsible choices. This year, it is being held on Tuesday 9th February and the theme is 'An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.



Some Uses of the Internet:

- watching videos
- listening to music
- video chatting with family members or friends
- learning new skills
- shopping
- gaming
- finding out about the news, weather and sport

An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World - What Does the Safer Internet Day 2021 Theme Mean?

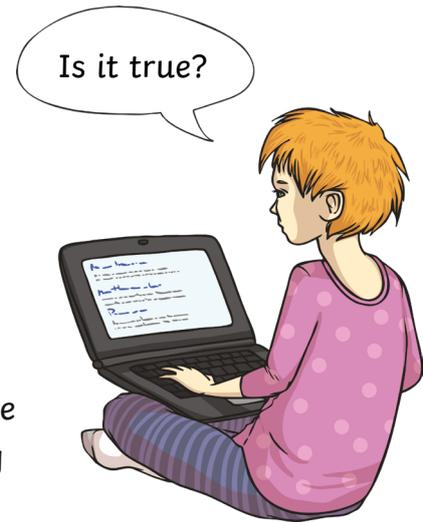
The Internet has many uses and an enormous amount of information can be accessed online. But how do we know the difference between what is fact and fiction?

The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can trust online. It supports young people to question and challenge what they see and read on the Internet.



Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems. The online world also contains fake news and misleading content, which can influence young people's decisions, views and opinions, as well as their emotional wellbeing.

Safer Internet Day 2021 will look at why inaccurate content exists, where it comes from and how young people can manage it.



Fact or Fiction?

Being able to spot whether content is fact or fiction can be a difficult task that even adults can find tricky. Safer Internet Day aims to help young people feel more comfortable at separating fact from fiction by helping them to develop the skills they need to be able to make the best decisions while online.

Once they are aware of, and ready to spot, inaccurate content, they must take the next steps in helping to create an Internet that is full of trustworthy and reliable information.



Photos

Keep in mind that photos can often exaggerate real life. People usually use the prettiest, happiest pictures of themselves to share online. Images of other people's (carefully chosen) so-called, perfect lives can leave you feeling low. Try not to compare yourself, as they don't always tell the whole story.

How Is Fake News Harmful?

Fake news is harmful because it:

- affects our views;
- breaks the trust we have in people in the media, many of whom are actually reporting honestly;
- causes people to act on false information.

What Is Fake News?

Fake news is false information that is published, claiming to be true and reliable news.

How to Spot Fake News

Here is a guide to help you spot fake news.

- Who is reporting the story? Check that a trustworthy news channel is reporting the story, such as the BBC.
- Is there an author or **journalist** name? If not, it could be suspicious.
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journalist - A person who writes news for newspapers, magazines or news websites.

Questions

1. What is the theme for Safer Internet Day 2021? Tick one.

exploring reliability in the online world: an Internet we trust

an Internet we trust: separating fact from fiction

an Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

an Internet we trust: exploring trustworthiness in the online world

2. Look at the **Some Uses of the Internet** section.

Tick **two** different reasons why people use the Internet.

to clean their teeth

to sleep

to learn new skills

to shop

3. Fill in the missing words.

The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can
online. It supports young people to question and
what they see and read on the Internet.

4. **Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems.**

Explain what is meant by this.

5. What is fake news? Tick **two**.

false information that is published

information that is true

information that claims to be true

all information on the Internet

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'making out something to be larger, better or worse than it really is'.

7. How can fake news and misleading content be harmful? Tick **three**.

it can influence people's views

it can influence people to act on false information

it can influence the weather

it can break the trust people have in the media

8. Do you think Safer Internet Day is important? Explain your answer.

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The Internet has many uses and is a great source of information. It offers opportunities to research, learn new facts or skills and it can help to broaden viewpoints. Many young people spend a lot of their time online so it is important that they know how to be safe, sensible and smart, while also being able to enjoy everything it has to offer.

The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can trust online. It supports young people to question and challenge what they see and read on the Internet.



Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems. The online world also contains fake news and misleading content, which can impact young people's decisions, views and opinions. It can also impact what they share online.

The day will also look at the emotional impact that misleading content can have on young people and why it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning environment online. It aims to encourage debate and discussion. The day aims to give young people the skills to support one another and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

What Is Fake News?

Fake news is false information that is published, claiming to be true and reliable news.



Separating Fact from Fiction

Being able to distinguish whether content is fact or fiction can be a difficult task that even adults can find tricky. Safer Internet Day aims to help young people to recognise inaccurate content and develop the skills they need to be able to make the best decisions while online.

Once they are aware of and ready to separate fact from fiction, they must take the next steps in helping to create an Internet that is full of trustworthy and reliable information.



Photos

Keep in mind that photos can often exaggerate real life. People usually use the prettiest, happiest pictures of themselves to share online. Images of other people's (carefully chosen) so-called, perfect lives can leave you feeling low. Try not to compare yourself, as they don't always tell the whole story.

How Is Fake News Harmful?

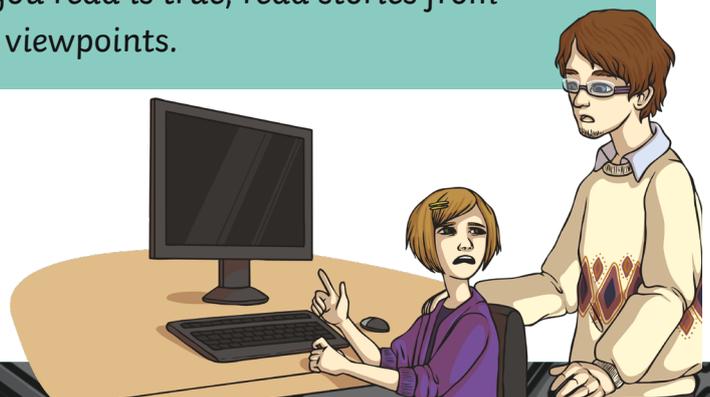
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- Don't just assume the first thing you read is true; read stories from different sources to get a range of viewpoints.



Questions

1. How often is Safer Internet Day celebrated? Tick one.
twice a year
every month
once a year
every January
2. Look at the **Some Uses of the Internet** section. List **three** different ways people use the Internet.
3. Fill in the missing words.
The online world also contains _____ news and misleading content, which can _____ young people's decisions, views and opinions.
4. Explain in your own words what the theme for Safer Internet Day 2021 is about.
5. Look at the **Separating Fact from Fiction** section.
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'differentiate'.
6. **Try not to compare yourself, though, as photos don't always tell the whole story.**
What do you think this means?

7. Write A, B, C and D in the boxes to match the parts of the sentences.

Check that a trustworthy news outlet... A.

Fake news stories will often have... B.

Bad web design, as well as... C.

Read stories from different sources... D.

• a strange domain name.

• is reporting the story, such as the BBC.

• to get a range of viewpoints.

• poor spelling, punctuation and grammar, might mean it's fake news.

8. Why do you think we have Safer Internet Day and do you think it is important?