TIPS FOR SPOTTING FAKE NEWS

1. Be skeptical of headlines. False news stories often have catch headlines. If shocking claims in the headlines sound unbelievable, they probably are.

2. Look closely at the URL. A phony or look-alike URL may be a warning sign of false news. Many false news sites mimic authentic news sources by making small changes to the URL. You can go to the site and compare URL to established sources.

3. Investigate the source. Ensure that the story is written by a source that you trust with a reputation for accuracy. If the story comes from an unfamiliar organization, check their “About” section to learn more.

4. Watch for unusual formatting. Many false news Consists have misspellings or awkward layouts. Read carefully if you see these signs.

5. Consider the photos. False news stories often contain manipulated images or videos. Sometimes the photo may be authentic, but taken out of context. You can search for the photo or image to verify where it came from.

6. Inspect the dates. False news stories may contain timelines that make no sense, or event dates that have been altered.

7. Check the evidence. Check author’s sources to confirm that they are accurate. Lack of evidence or reliance on unnamed expert’s may indicate a false news story.

8. Look at other reports. If no other news sources is reporting the same story ,it may indicate that the story is false . If the story is reported by multiple sources you trust, it’s more likely to be true.

9. Is the story a joke? Sometimes false news stories can be hard to distinguish from humors or satire .Check whether the source is known for parody and whether the story’s details and tone suggest it may be just for fun.

10. Some stories are intentionally false. Think critically about the stories you read , and only share news that you know to be credible.

11. What is the domain name? Be wary of unusual top-level domain names, like “.com.co.” A second-level domain like “abcnews” may appear credible. But note that abcnews.com.co is a different and illegitimate site, though designed to appear similar to the original.

12. What’s the publication’s point of view? Read the “About Us” section for more insight into the publisher, leadership, and mission statement. Also,
confirm that you have not stumbled upon a satirical news site, like the Onion.

13. Do you notice spelling errors [sic], lots of ALL CAPS, or dramatic punctuation?!?!?! If so, abort your reading mission. Reputable sources have high proofreading and grammatical standard.

14. Is the story current or recycled? Make sure an older story isn’t being taken out of context.

15. Can you perform reverse searches for sources and images? By checking cited sources, you can confirm that the information has been accurately applied and not altered to meet the author’s point of view. The same goes for images. In an era of Photoshop magic, you can’t always believe what you see.