



## Activity 5: Identifying Misleading Images







## Objective:

To recognise signs that a photograph has been edited.



Omar

Olive



Newsi:

Hi! My name is Newsi and these are my friends Omar and Olive. We are members of our school's News Club. We're on the lookout for new stories for our next School News Bulletin.





Omar

Oooh! This is interesting. Someone in our class has just shared a photo of an escaped lion on Sutton High Street! This looks really serious.





NEWS  
FLASH!

Omar

What should we do?



SHARE

OR



Share it with our friends,  
family and school?

Investigate further?





Olive

That looks really scary! My mum is in town today. I'm going to send her the photo so that she knows what is going on.







Olive

That looks really scary! My mum is in town today. I'm going to send her the photo so that she knows what is going on.



Newsi

Hmmm. I think that we should be careful. I have heard that sometimes people deliberately edit photographs and share them online.



Olive

That looks really scary! My mum is in town today. I'm going to send her the photo so that she knows what is going on.



Newsi

Hmmm. I think that we should be careful. I have heard that sometimes people deliberately edit photographs and share them online.

Omar

Yes, I've heard that too! I think that you should not share it until you are sure that it is real. But how can we tell whether a photo is real or not?







Omar

I know! Let's ask AJ, the Librarian!

**NEWS  
FLASH!**



Hello News Club!

Well done for coming to ask me for help.  
Sometimes the internet can be confusing  
and it is always a good idea to ask for help  
from an adult that you trust.



**NEWS  
FLASH!**

Edited or 'photoshopped' photographs and videos can be just as misleading as fake news stories and websites which contain misinformation.

In fact, there is a saying that "a picture paints a thousand words". A misleading photo can spread misinformation more quickly and more easily than a long news article.







**NEWS  
FLASH!**



Omar

Why would someone change or edit a photo and then share it?

AJ

There could be many different **MOTIVATIONS** for creating faked photographs. Let's explore them together...







There can be lots of reasons but they are mainly...



...to get as many  
'clicks' on their website  
as possible. This helps  
them to make money  
from advertising.

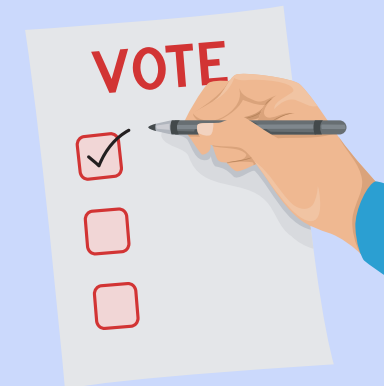




There can be lots of reasons but they are mainly...



...to get as many 'clicks' on their website as possible. This helps them to make money from advertising.



...to make someone think a certain way and to influence their actions.

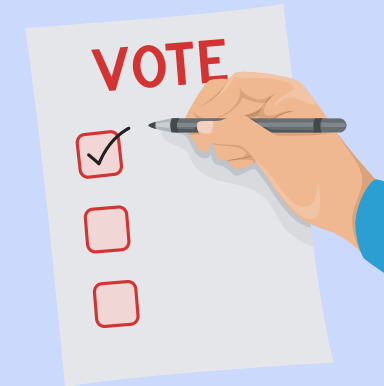




There can be lots of reasons but they are mainly...



...to get as many 'clicks' on their website as possible. This helps them to make money from advertising.



...to make someone think a certain way and to influence their actions.



...because they think it is funny.



**NEWS  
FLASH!**



Let's take a look at my TOP TIPS for finding out whether an image is real or whether it has been edited to share misinformation.



**NEWS  
FLASH!**

Top Tip 1

Use your  
common sense!

Does it seem  
plausible?





**NEWS  
FLASH!**

## Top Tip 2

Are there  
shadows?

Are they in the  
correct places?





**NEWS  
FLASH!**

## Top Tip 3

Check for  
reflections in shiny  
surfaces like  
windows.

Do they make  
sense?





**NEWS  
FLASH!**

## Top Tip 4

Do the  
surroundings make  
sense?

Are people  
responding  
naturally?





NEWS  
FLASH!

## Top Tip 5

Ask yourself,  
is it designed to  
make you have an  
emotional  
response?





## Top Tip 6

Look at the overall  
quality of the image.

Are parts of the  
photo clearer or  
more blurry than  
others?





**NEWS  
FLASH!**

## Top Tip 7

Have the signs been  
changed?

Do the fonts and  
colours match up?







Top Tip 8

Check out the account that is sharing the image.  
Do you still believe it to be true?





NEWS  
FLASH!

## Top Tip 9

Do a Google Reverse  
Image Search.

Upload the image to  
see where else it  
appears online.

Google  
images



Learn how Google keeps you safe online

Google  
images

### Search by image

Search Google with an image instead of text. Try dragging an image here.

Search by image

Paste image URL

Upload an image

Choose file No file chosen





AJ

If you follow these Top Tips then you **SHOULD** be able to identify whether or not the photo is real or if it has been faked.



Omar

Thanks AJ!

I don't think that we will share that photo with our friends, family OR the rest of the school. I think that someone has created it as a joke.





Olive

Oh no!

I sent the photo to my mum. She was shopping in town with my Grandma and panicked when she thought that there was a lion on the loose. She was hurrying into a shop and my Grandma fell over and hurt her leg.

She sent it on to my uncle who posted it on a local Facebook page. Lots of people knew that it wasn't true and became very angry with him and started calling him names. He was really upset.

I wish that I'd never shared it!





AJ

Oh dear Olive.

That is a shame. I hope your Grandma is ok.

Yes, sometimes sharing misleading photos can have unintended consequences. This is why you should always check whether an image is real before sharing it. It might have been **CREATED** as a joke, but the consequences might not be very funny.

Can you think of any other negative consequences that there could be to sharing misleading or fake images?





Newsi:

Wow! Thanks AJ. That was really useful. Now I know what to look for when deciding whether I should share a photo.



AJ:

As long as you stay vigilant and know what to look out for then you can share photos responsibly.





## Recap

Let's remind ourselves of my Top Tips for telling if an image might have been edited.



- Use your common sense. Does the image SEEM plausible?
- Are there shadows? Are they in the right places?
- Check for reflections. Do they make sense?
- Do the surroundings seem right? Are people responding naturally?
- Ask yourself, is it designed to make you have an emotional response?
- Look at the quality of the image. Are parts of it blurry while other parts of it look clear?
- Have any signs been changed? Do fonts and colours match up?
- Who has shared the image? Can they be trusted?
- Upload the picture into Google and try a reverse image search.





### Task:

Take a look at the images that are on the Activity sheet.

Can you tell if they have been edited?  
How can you tell?



- Use your common sense. Does the image SEEM plausible?
- Are there shadows? Are they in the right places?
- Check for reflections. Do they make sense?
- Do the surroundings seem right? Are people responding naturally?
- Ask yourself, is it designed to make you have an emotional response?
- Look at the quality of the image. Are parts of it blurry while other parts of it look clear?
- Have any signs been changed? Do fonts and colours match up?
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Have you played the



game yet?

Go to [www.newsflashgame.org](http://www.newsflashgame.org) to solve the mystery and uncover the truth!

