

# Is this source reliable or fake? 10 questions to reconsider



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**IS THIS SOURCE RELIABLE OR FAKE? 10 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**  
The internet contains a wealth of information. But how do you know which sources you can and cannot trust? These tips should help you along.

**1. WHO IS THE AUTHOR?**  
Is the name of the author mentioned? Is the author real? Are they known for (un)reliable publications? Do they write for well-known websites/papers?  
**TIP** Try to find more information about the author.

**2. WHO PUBLISHED THE ARTICLE?**  
A news medium? Is the news medium trustworthy? A person on social media? What audience are they trying to reach?  
**TIP** Read information about the topic from other sources. Do they say the same things?

**3. WHAT IS THE DATE?**  
When was the article written? Is the information current? Sometimes a new date is put on an old article, and the information is changed.  
**TIP** Locate the original article.

**4. WHICH SOURCES DID THE AUTHOR USE?**  
Where did the information come from? From a news medium, organisation, interview or report? What do they want to achieve with the article?  
**TIP** Check the sources. Sometimes source information may be wrong, or the source material may have been adapted.

**5. IS THE TITLE NEUTRAL?**  
The title doesn't always reflect what's in the article. Titles are meant to draw attention. Did you know that...  
- titles online are often written to get more clicks?  
- titles often use quotes?  
**TIP** Always read beyond the title.

**6. WHY DOES THE AUTHOR WRITE THIS?**  
What is the author's intention? Is it an advert? Is it an opinion? Is it meant to make you laugh?  
**TIP** Search for elements that tell you why the author wrote the piece.

**7. DO THE LINKS CHECK OUT?**  
Many articles contain links to other websites, organisations or information. But that doesn't mean they are real, or say what the article says they say.  
**TIP** Check the links.

**8. WHY AM I SEEING THIS?**  
Did you know that sometimes you are specifically targeted with a post? That can be a result of what you search for online, who your friends or what your preferences are.  
**TIP** Regularly clear your browser history and your cookies. Follow a variety of media and people for a well-balanced world view.

**9. HOW IS THE INFORMATION PRESENTED?**  
Some warning signs: edited images, spelling mistakes, lots of capitals and exclamation marks are suspicious.  
**TIP** Look at images critically.

**10. WHAT ARE MY PRECONCEPTIONS?**  
Everyone carries preconceptions. You will often have a preference for someone's work or opinions. Your personal opinions or striking images may influence your judgement.  
**TIP** Talk to friends, adults or experts about your ideas.

**TOP TIP** Think critically and gather information from a variety of sources to stay well-informed.

This checklist is based on the "Nieuws in de Klas Nederland" checklist and was compiled in collaboration with StampMedia.

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