Is Your News Fake or Fact?

Here are some search tips to help you check:

Tip #1 See if the news has already been fact-checked.

Professional fact-checking sites—such as Snopes.com, Politifact.com, FactCheck.org, and SourceWatch.org—may have already investigated.

To search them quickly, copy the headline or important facts from your news. By putting them in quotes, you tell Google to search on a phrase rather than each word. Restrict your search to a fact-checking site by using the "site:" tool.

The search below looks for “Obama” and “birth certificate” only in the Snopes.com website.

Tip #2 Find the original story. Is it real or taken out of context?

Highlight a relevant portion of the text then right-click the mouse (control-click on a Mac). Now you have the option to search the internet for earlier mentions of the news. This works on photos, too!
Tip #3 Practice click constraint.

Don’t click the first link in a results list. Fact-check like the pros and scan the URLs below the titles first. Which source is the most reputable?

Tip #4 Don’t believe what a source says about itself. Find out what other people say about it.

To search for opinions about a site outside of the site, use the “-site:” technique. In Google, the hyphen removes what you don’t want from a search. The search below will look for mentions of a website but the website itself won’t appear in the results. You can use the hyphen with words and phrases, too.