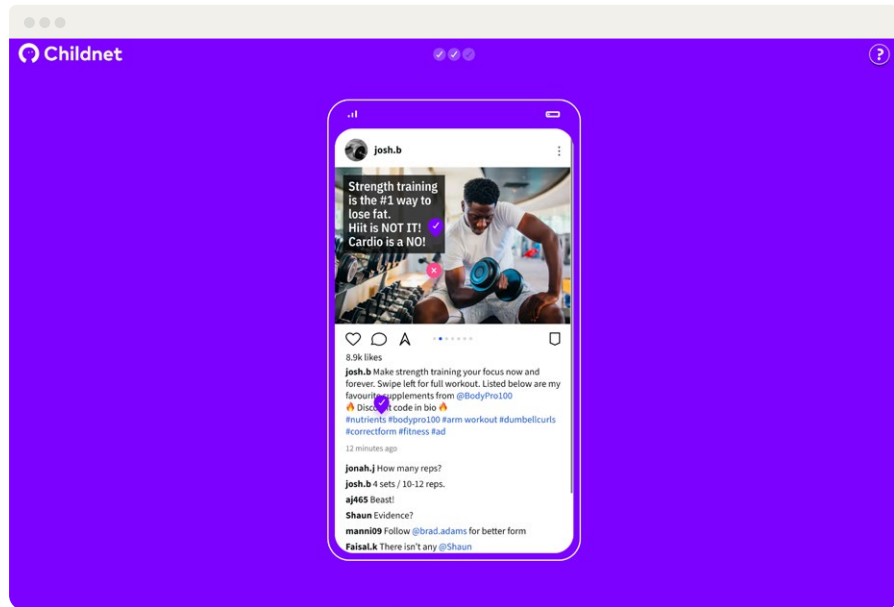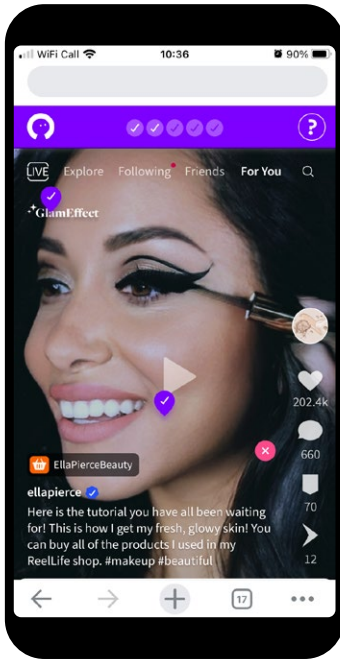# Reliability online

Suggested activities and answers

Target audience

Learners who are going online for their news and information.

The internet has transformed the way that we get our information and connect with others, but these changes have not all been positive. With the growth of AI generated content and new technologies emerging, it is becoming increasingly difficult to know what to trust and who to believe. Reliability online was developed with the Childnet Youth Advisory Board and examines the reliability of the people, information and news that young people see online.

How to use this resource

This document has been designed to support the use of the interactive resource, Reliability online. There are suggested activities, printable versions of all the examples, and answers to the tasks.

Childnet

Reliability online

This interactive resource teaches learners strategies and tests their understanding. There are three parts, each designed to become more challenging.
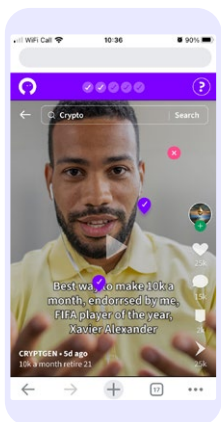

Part one – Reliable or not?

Learners look at posts and articles to decide if they can be trusted.

Part two – Can you trust the news?

Learners are asked to identify if the news stories they see are examples of bias, exaggeration or alarmism.

Part three – Spot the signs

Learners are challenged to identify and point out the different signs and risks of posts.

You can access the interactive resource here: childnet.com/resources/reliability-online

Suggested activities

Individual or small groups

Write the advice

Print out a range of the posts and articles from the resource. Learners should choose one to focus on, consider what risks it contains, and write their advice. This could include top tips, steps they can take and memorable messages. The advice could then be shared with the rest of your group, or in your wider setting through displays or newsletters.

Individual

Create your own unreliable content

Learners devise and create their own unreliable content. This should highlight some of the risks they have seen themselves or have knowledge of from using the resource. This activity can be completed either by hand or on a device. Here are some ideas of some content learners can create:

- A social media post (photos or videos)

- A fake news story

- An online scam pop-up

- A giveaway

- A social media profile

- A video of a live news event

Extension

Once each learner has created their unreliable online content, it can then be reviewed by others in their class or group. Select one example to review as a class or group, where you can model how to spot the unreliable content. After the task is introduced, sticky notes could be supplied for the learners to jot down any unreliable content they can spot in each other's creations.

Suggested activities continued

Small groups

Rank the risk

Provide learners with paper copies of the posts and articles. Explain to the learners that the examples cover many risks and that some risks can cause more harm than others. Learners should then arrange them in the order from least risk to most risk by considering the impact it would have upon someone. Learners can then see how other groups have arranged them and discuss the differences between their rankings.

Individual or small groups

Create your own checklist

Ask learners to create a reliability checklist to help people decide if something they see online is reliable or not. Learners could look at several examples and create one list or they may choose to focus on one of these:

- Social media posts

- Influencers

- Online news

- Buying and selling online

- Videos e.g. deepfakes, AI filters...

Suggested activities continued

QQ **Small groups**

AI images – can you spot them?

In small groups, provide learners with a mixture of images. The images will either be AI generated or not. Ask learners how we can tell which image is real and what advice they would give to others in this situation.

QQ **Whole group**

AI – have your say

In this task, learners will have an opportunity to debate the positives and negatives of using AI. The learners should be split into two groups. One group should put forward a case for all the benefits of using AI whilst the other group should debate the negatives. Learners may use their knowledge and what they have found in the resource so far or research their topic further to explore aspects like generative AI and virtual assistants. Once they have prepared, bring the two groups together to present their points. After the debate, they should decide which side had the strongest reasons. To extend this learning, they could present to another group of learners and allow them to decide which side they agree with.

Part 1 – Reliable or not?

JK43354g

❤ 💬 ⌁   🔖

1,856 likes

JK43354g #climatescam #climatehysteria #cardiff

8 hours ago

BattleDruid They just want to sell us new cars

RayRaiM433 Well said. The truth will out.

KL444FG Well said. The truth will out

GretaFan23 Bot alert! This is no hoax.

BB%F3347 We are not causing climate change

CharityHistory ✔

❤ 💬 ⌁   🔖

Liked by Childnet and others

CharityHistory ✔ Childnet was formed in 1995. Their main mission is to make the internet a great and safe place for children and young people. They work with the government and other internet companies to ensure young people stay as safe as possible. Visit www.childnet.com

7 hours ago

james.c

❤ 💬 ⌁   🔖

2 likes

james.c Brand new trainers for sale in box on my DeVint page. Follow the link in my bio. #real #devint #cheap

3 hours ago

olliebailey reply to my dm

yazfreeman @aaravfreeman these ones

Kiarakk how much?

j.hunter still waiting for my tracking no.!!!!

saanvi44 @kamau_g

Activ1st667

Jimmy.G334

❤ 20k
🤍 12k
🔖 10k

❤ 💬 ⌁   🔖

Liked by jbEastly and others

Activ1st667 It is all kicking off in London!

27 minutes ago

C676 Get out of there

jbEastly Are you ok?

DamnShane You are not even in London!

Activ1st667 There is a protest planned today

DamnShane This is from that clip going around, right?

Activ1st667 👍

DamnShane It is old. Look at it

tashawatson

| **298** Posts | **174** Followers | **1321** Following |

Following | Message

Sport › Football › Premier League

High profile footballer accused of stealing charity funds to buy new car

By Fabrio Cation for Macefield Gazette
Published 11:17, 21st June

Renowned non-league footballer accused by a local charity of stealing much needed funds.

The charity, who help hundreds of children in their area to access sports activities, believe the semi-pro footballer is withholding the money raised at a recent gala evening.

The player, who at present remains unnamed, has yet to hand over the sponsorship money he promised to raise for the charity, but has been spotted driving a new car around the local area.

The gala evening took place yesterday at Macefield Town Hall, where it is a believed over £5,000 was raised through auction and donations. "Apparently he's an ambassador for the charity and always been so supportive of the work they do for the local kids," reported an attendee of the gala event. "He said he was going to match what they raised but nothing's been handed over yet. It's quite a coincidence that he's suddenly driving around in a new car."

The source reports that the charity has contacted the player's management on several occasions and the case has now been handed over to the authorities.

halliehill ✔

♡ ⬭ ⌁   ▽

9.7k likes

halliehill ✔ I am so nervous and excited to be finally doing the London Marathon this weekend! Just getting the last bits of training in and eating lots of good food! Wish me luck everyone <3 #marathon #running #london

7 hours ago

gymgirl00 you are so inspiring <3

ryanl0ck88 good luck in your marathon!!

Frenzied attack by 'savage monster' leaves residents in fear

🧑 **Scoop Online News** ✔

"I heard a crunch and the sea turned red"

♡ ◯ ⋀   ⬗

406 likes

Scoop Online News ✔ A shark attack left a UK south-coast community reeling this weekend when a 2.5m Shortfin Mako locked jaws with a surfer's board. In an incredible display of strength, the 17 year old victim paddled back to shore unaided and was subsequently flown by air ambulance to nearby Poole hospital for minor surgery. Whilst shark encounters in the region are incredibly rare, people are being advised to keep clear of the water until the beach reopens.

12 hours ago

Sand_sea_surf10 I surf here every week - really hope she's okay

79marine.bio Scaremongering yet again. Unprovoked injuries from sharks are exceptionally rare in the UK and these headlines are so unhelpful.

sharkweekobsessed The UK has had its first #greatwhiteshark sighting too

'It's no secret that they can't stand each other'–feud rumours rumble on

By Caylee Fauxtino for ScoopOnlineNews.com
Published: 10:32, 21 November

🔶 ✉ 🔗   **650** Shares   💬 **93** Comments

Party-Island winner Linzi B rang in her 25th birthday in style by enjoying a casual night on the town with her pals at Moonstone Blue in London on Wednesday evening.

The entire cast of Season 9 were in attendance, but an agonizing wardrobe miscommunication left the top two finalists mortified after both women arrived sporting identical outfits for the birthday bash.

Adding further fuel to the well-documented feud rumours, Linzi sought reassurance from her 1.2M followers, asking "Who wore it best?" To which Jazz Lynn replied, "You know it was me." Rubbing salt into the wounds with a trophy emoji.

After mustering forced smiles and posing for photos together, a source told Scoop Online, "It's no secret that they can't stand each other." JazzLynn reportedly snubbed Linzi for the rest of the event, opting to spend time with Blake, Anton and Danika.

Luna News ✔

BREAKING NEWS

WELCOME TAX CUTS FOR TOP EARNERS

New 'Mini Budget' to boost economic growth

335 likes

Luna News ✔ It's clear to see that prosperity and progress are the guiding principles of today's interim budget announcement. These economy saving tax cuts are intended to secure financial growth, boost savings, investment and pensions, increase productivity, and reduce unemployment.

Full story and more at the link in bio

1 hour ago

Dr_Jay65 Brilliant to see some positive news! We needed this.

Action.24_7 Hmmm, can't think why a mega rich news outlet would be posting in support of this… Anyone??

PoliticsStudent808 It's well documented that trickle-down economics has only ever failed

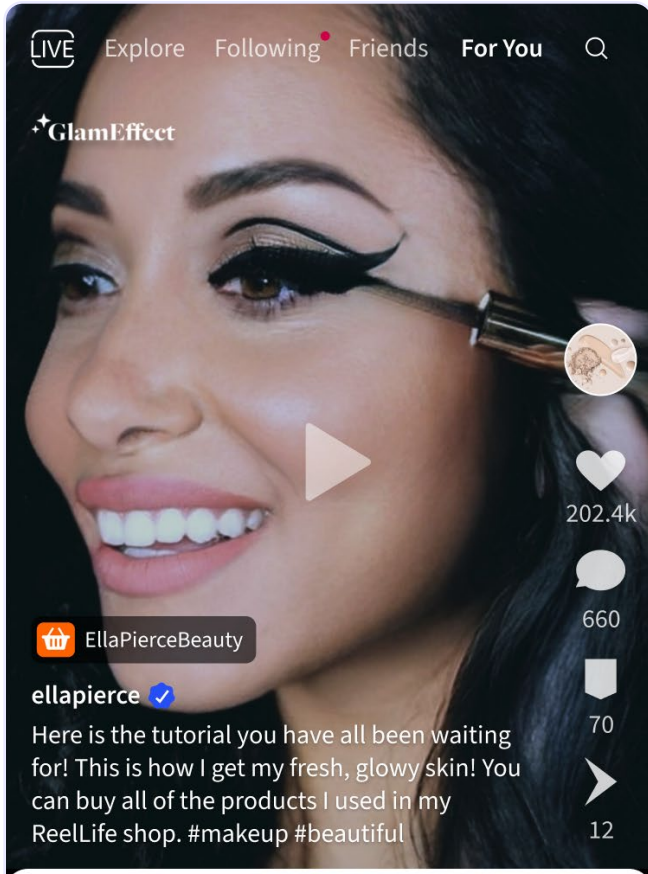**GretaFan23** Tax cuts for the rich have literally never worked in the whole of history. @PoliticsStudent808 for PM!

Nurse_KT_ It's the workers at grassroots level that need the support

Baddream45 Finally, a government taking action!

Anony._.mouse @Nurse_KT_ :(You guys are incredible thank you

C4FP23 'Breaking news… Massive corporation gets richer' #campaignforfairpay

Part 3 – Spot the signs

LIVE Explore Following Friends **For You** 🔍

✦GlamEffect

▶

❤ 202.4k

💬 660

🎖 70

➤ 12

🛒 EllaPierceBeauty

ellapierce ☑

Here is the tutorial you have all been waiting for! This is how I get my fresh, glowy skin! You can buy all of the products I used in my ReelLife shop. #makeup #beautiful

660 comments   ✕

becky66
does anyone know any dupes?   ❤ 47

pippavine
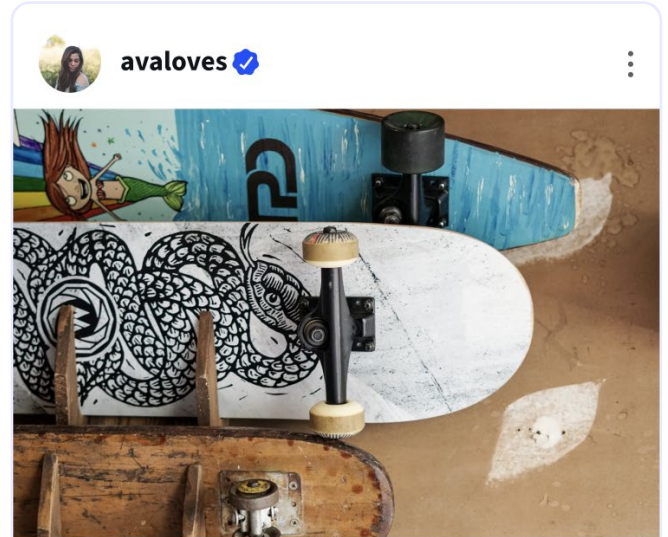@eva33 This was the brand I was telling you about!   ❤ 1

itsrosie
surely this is an ad???   ❤ 132

avaloves ☑   ⋮

❤ 💬 ⌲   🔖

5k

avaloves ☑ Think I have too many boards… to celebrate 500k I am giving away 2 of my collection! To enter you need to:
💜Make sure you're following me
💜Like this post
💜Comment 🛹 on this post
💜Post this to your story for an extra entry.
💜Follow me on all of my socials

50 minutes ago

j.lewis 🛹

ava.lovess @j.lewis congrats you've won! Check your dms.

beatrizmaya 🛹

josh.b ⋮

Strength training is the #1 way to lose fat.
Hiit is NOT IT!
Cardio is a NO!

♡ 💬 ⊿   • • • • • • •   ⬚

8.9k likes

josh.b Make strength training your focus now and forever. Swipe left for full workout. Listed below are my favourite supplements from @BodyPro100
🔥 Discount code in bio 🔥
#nutrients #bodypro100 #arm workout #dumbellcurls #correctform #fitness #ad

12 minutes ago

jonah.j How many reps?

josh.b 4 sets / 10-12 reps.

aj465 Beast!

Shaun Evidence?

manni09 Follow @brad.adams for better form

Faisal.k There isn't any @Shaun

KianD.2009 Trainers love to promote this. 💵

FitnessForAll ✅ You won't find it @Shaun Research says aerobic is better.

aj465 I've heard the opposite @FitnessForAll

← 🔍 Crypto | Search

Best way to make 10k a month, endorrsed by me, FIFA player of the year, Xavier Alexander

CRYPTGEN • 5d ago
10k a month retire 21
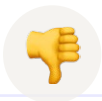
❤ 25k
💬 15k
🔖 2k
➤ 25k

Add comment...   @ ☺ 🎁

Cryptgen
10k a month link in bio to get started

Xavier_Alexander_verficado
Great to work with you @cryptgen

Curiouscat99
I'm in

Answers

Part 1 – Reliable or not?

👎

Here are the untrustworthy aspects:

Account JK43354g
The username JK43354g looks like a bot account and so do some of the accounts commenting. Social media bots are computer programmes that allow people to mimic real users and manage multiple accounts. These bot accounts can be used to spread stories, make comments, like and follow. They often have suspicious usernames and make similar comments.

The photo
The post uses #cardiff but the photo is from Germany.

👎
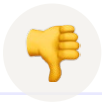
Here are the untrustworthy aspects:

The photo and description don't match
This photo shows someone wearing the 'brand new trainers'. Are these the trainers that they are selling?

The comments
Buyers seem unhappy. People are asking James to reply and for a tracking number, which suggests they have not received their items.

The hashtags
Hashtags are generally used to get more views but may not be accurate. The trainers might not actually be real or cheap.

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Answers continued

Here are the trustworthy aspects:

The photo
This is the Childnet logo.

The text in the post
This information matches what we told you about Childnet earlier.

The post was liked by Childnet
If Childnet's official account liked it, it should be trustworthy. However, it is worth checking that it is actually the official Childnet account.

Here are the untrustworthy aspects:

The photo
It is a screenshot from an old video. You might have noticed that the journalist and all the police officers are wearing face masks.

The comments from DamnShane
DamnShane appears to be a friend or acquaintance who knows that Activ1st is not even in London. They have spotted this image being shared around online even though it is old.

This is a difficult one to decide. The account could be seen as reliable or unreliable but it is a selective view of someone's life. Here are the signs:

The photos
The photos look like they have been chosen to show only the best bits of this person's life. It is not an accurate view of their whole life.

Editing
These photos look edited to change how they look.

Childnet

Answers continued

Here are the trustworthy aspects:

The content is healthy and inspiring
This influencer is showcasing a healthy lifestyle by fuelling her body for a long run.

Photo
The photo matches the description and is not advertising or promoting any products.

Verified account
This is useful but we know that some social media allows people to buy verification. It is best to do some more checks.

Here are the untrustworthy aspects:

Clickbait headline and article
The news story is about a non-league player who has been accused of stealing the donation money from a fundraiser. However, the event only took place the day before the article was published and there is no solid evidence.

Unnamed sources
Neither the player, charity nor the supplier of the quote are named. They could be made up.

The photos
You can't see the person properly in the photo on the right. For the car photo, AI photo editing was used to blur the number plate, erase people in the background, and take off the shop branding.

Answers continued

Part 2 – Can you trust the news?

Here are the signs of alarmism:

The headline and quote
Both are likely to make people worry. The quote implies that something terrible has happened.

The photo
Although this is a Shortfin Mako Shark, the photo chosen does make the shark look very scary. They could have used a photo of the beach.

The article
This reveals that the surfer was not seriously hurt and the minor surgery could have been a few stitches. It also states that these attacks are incredibly rare, and this is backed up by a comment from a marine biologist.

Here are the signs of exaggeration:

The headline and quote
The headline makes you think that the feud is real and has been going on for a while. Quotes should be credited to the person who said it.

The photo and social media comments
Both women are smiling and the social media conversation looks like a joke between friends. There is no evidence that the smiles are forced and not genuine.
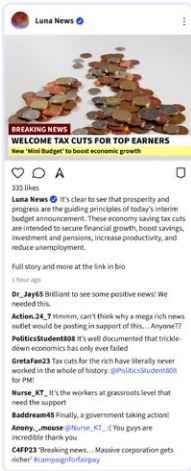
The article
The article uses exaggerated language. The fact that Linzi and Jazzlynn dressed the same is described as "agonizing," leaving the two women "mortified." It says that JazzLynn snubbed Linzi and builds up the feud even though they happily posed for photos together.

Answers continued

Bias

Here are signs of bias:

The breaking news banner
The tax cuts are not introduced with neutral or objective language. They are described as "welcome" and a boost for economic growth which suggests that the news outlet is in favour of the tax cuts.

The text in the post
The opening line highlights the prosperity and progress that the plans are designed to bring. Luna News also uses words like save, boost, secure and increase to show that they support the mini budget.

The comments
People are challenging the post and calling out bias in the comments. One implies that Luna News will financially benefit from the plans.

Answers continued

Part 3 – Spot the signs
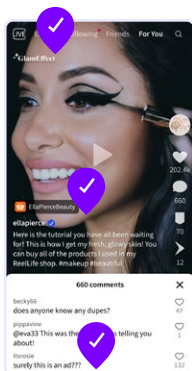
Here are the signs that this post is unreliable:

Filters and effects
Ella has used the Glam Effect AI video filter to change the way she looks.

Advertisement
Ella has advertised her own product in this post and has not disclosed this information. If a post is an advertisement, a creator should use #ad or other labelling to inform their audience.

Comments
The comments are asking Ella if the post is an ad, showing it is clear she is advertising products without disclosing this.


These people might not be reliable:

Avaloves
Ava is using this competition to get more engagement with her account. People entering the competition will drive up her followers, likes, comments and shares. Entrants are relying on avaloves to run the competition fairly.

Ava.lovess
This person is trying to impersonate avaloves and saying that j.lewis has won. It is probably a trick to get their personal information.

Answers continued
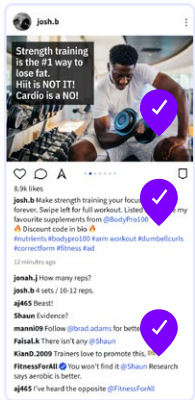
Here are the potential risks of believing this post:

Body image
Josh is implying that anyone can look like this if they follow him and his suggested workout. As a result, viewers may feel unhappy with the way they look and under pressure to make changes.

Advertising
The post is paid advertising for a supplement which may not be safe or suitable for young people. It raises the question about the responsibility of influencers and what they endorse.

Conflicting advice
People are challenging Josh's advice in the chat which makes it difficult to know who to trust. You'll also see that manni09 is using this chat to promote someone else to follow. It is important to find what works best for you.
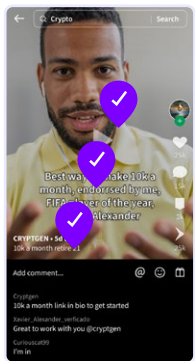
Here are the signs that AI was used to create this video post:

Missing wire
Xavier Alexander's left headphone wire is missing. Sometimes these can be very hard to spot and you need to look really closely.

Spelling error
AI has been used to create the subtitles but there is a spelling mistake.

The wording
The caption "10k a month retire 21" does not make sense.

Childnet

For further information and resources to use with your learners, head to: childnet.com/resources

For help and advice on any concerns which may be raised whilst using this resource, or specific issues raised by your learners, have a look at our Teachers and Professionals Help and Advice pages at: www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/teachers-and-professionals

Childnet's mission is to work in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. We work directly with children and young people from the ages of 3 to 18 on a weekly basis, as well as parents, carers, teachers and professionals, finding out about their real experiences online, and the positive things they are doing as well as sharing safety advice.

Explore more resources at childnet.com/resources