News Literacy

How to help learners separate fact from fiction
What We’ll Do Today

• About News for You

• News literacy: What is “fake news” and how do we spot it?

• Activities and resources for helping learners increase their news know-how
News for You Was Born in a Classroom
In Print and Online Weekly

- 7 high-interest articles
- Engaging photos and graphics
- Key vocabulary is defined
- Popular weekly crossword written for low-level readers
- Teacher’s Guide

### Drug Company Could Make a Deal in Opioid Cases

**Answer Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Million dollars of drugs would be made to treat ____________ and overdoses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opiates would be turned into a public __________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioids have been __________ more than 400,000 U.S. deaths over the past 20 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The company is accused of __________ doctors and the public about their safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The state of Ohio has sued Purdue Pharma and other drug companies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If they are used for too long, the body starts to __________ them</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue could also decide to file for __________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2017, Purdue Pharma and three of its leaders were found __________ for__ keeping the public ignorant about the drug’s safety.

(Answers: 1. addiction; 2. used; 3. connected; 4. misleading; 5. used; 6. depend; 7. bankruptcy; 8. planned)
News for You Online

• Sentence-by-sentence custom-recorded audio
• Pop-up vocabulary defined at point of use
• Interactive bonus exercises, puzzles, polls, comments sections
• Teacher’s resources
• Mobile-friendly
News for You Topics

• Make me smarter
• Give me something to talk about
• Look out for my interests

(Newspaper Readership Institute study of motivators)
## Readability

### Readability Worksheet

**Title:** Having a Baby  
**Author:** Ed Kay  
**Publisher:** New Readers Press, City, Syracuse, N.Y.

**Date of publication:** 1975  
**No. pages:** 168  
**Formula:** Gunning  
**Date analyzed:** 7-28-76  
**By:** Sally Treadwell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample no.</th>
<th>Col., if applic.</th>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>First word(s)</th>
<th>Last word</th>
<th>No. words</th>
<th>No. sent.</th>
<th>No. hard words</th>
<th>Avg. no. words per sent.</th>
<th>% hard words</th>
<th>Sum</th>
<th>Grade level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>maybe</td>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A plastic</td>
<td>breastfeed</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>time</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>you</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>how</td>
<td>dress</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>.9</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Here</td>
<td>night</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>If</td>
<td>true</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>If</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total of scores: 50.5  
÷ No. of samples: 10  
**Lowest grade:** 3.7  
**Highest grade:** 6.0  
**AVERAGE Grade Level:** 5.1
Activity: Comparing Articles

Skim this article on student loan forgiveness and think of answers to these questions:

• Is it real or fake?
• Is it biased or balanced?
• Is it something you trust?
• How do you know?
What Is “Fake News?”
Types of “Fake News”

• Satire / Entertainment
• Clickbait
• Partisan bias
• Legit news labeled as fake by those who are threatened by it
It’s a Problem …

Americans see made-up news as a bigger problem than other key issues …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% WHO SAY ___ IS A VERY BIG PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY TODAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability of health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. political system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap between rich &amp; poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made-up news/info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

… and most see it as detrimental to the country’s democratic system

MADE-UP NEWS AND INFORMATION HAS A BIG IMPACT ON …

68% Americans’ confidence in government

54% Americans’ confidence in each other

51% Political leaders’ ability to get work done

Source: Survey conducted Feb. 19-March 4, 2019
“Many Americans Say Made-Up News Is a Critical Problem That Needs To Be Fixed”
PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Ask Some Questions

• Who wrote it?
• What type of content is it?
• What evidence supports the facts?
• How are the facts interpreted?
• Does it tell both sides of the story?
• Where can more information be located?
Warning Signs

- Headlines that YELL!
- Claim in headline isn’t backed up in the story
- No named author
- No About page
- No links
- No other stories about topic in Google News
- URL pretends to be a real site

If your mother says she loves you, check it out.
Simple Strategies

- Google search on topic
- Snopes.com
- Google image search: images.google.com
Fact vs. Opinion

Displaying results for year-round school

We need year-round schools
© 4:42 PM, Aug 31, 2012 | OPINIONS
Melissa Davis says students lose the gains they made in school during summer vacation and do much better with year-round schools.

Despite push, year-round schools get mixed grades
© 12:00 AM, Sep 04, 2012 | NEWS
As students head back to class across the United States, educators are weighing the benefits of a longer school year, which has been tried in several districts with mixed results.
Activities

“Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet just because there’s a picture with a quote next to it.”

—Abraham Lincoln
Resources

Links, links, links!

• News for You Tips For Teachers:
  NewsforYouOnline.com, click “Tips for Teachers”
• Politifact.com
• Snopes.com
• Factcheck.org
• NewseumEd.org
Etc. etc. …