

Bringing Generations Together



PAK PIONEERS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF CANADA

News Apps & Reliable Information

A step-by-step guide to reading the news online, finding trustworthy sources, and staying safe from misinformation — designed for beginners.

DIGITAL LITERACY COURSE

BEGINNER FRIENDLY

What We'll Learn Today

By the end of this lesson, you'll feel confident finding news online, spotting false stories, and checking if information is trustworthy.

01

Reading News Online

How to open and use news apps and websites safely

03

Spotting Fake News

Warning signs of false or misleading stories

02

Trusted Sources

Which news sources are reliable and how to recognize them

04

Fact-Checking & Safety

How to verify information before believing or sharing it



What Is a News App?

A **news app** is a program on your phone or tablet that brings headlines and stories right to your screen — no newspaper required.



Free to Download

Most news apps cost nothing to install from the App Store or Google Play



Always Updated

Stories refresh throughout the day so you always see the latest news



Easy to Search

Type a topic like "weather" or "health" and find related stories instantly



New word: **App** — short for "application." It's a small program that does one job, like showing news or checking weather.

Trusted News Sources You Can Count On

Not every website tells the truth. These well-known sources have reporters who check facts before publishing. Look for names you recognize.



NPR News

Public radio — thorough, balanced reporting. Free app available.



BBC News

British broadcaster with worldwide coverage. Known for accuracy.



AP News

The Associated Press — one of the oldest and most trusted wire services.



Local TV News

Your local ABC, NBC, or CBS channel — great for community news and weather.

✔ Tip: If a source has been around for many years and you've heard of it on TV or radio, it's usually trustworthy.

How to Spot Fake News

Fake news is a story that is not true — sometimes made to scare you, trick you, or make you share it. Here are the biggest warning signs to watch for.



→ 🤖 **Shocking Headlines**

"YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS!" — If it sounds too amazing or scary to be true, be careful.

→ 🚫 **No Author Listed**

Trustworthy stories name the reporter. No name? Big warning sign.

→ 🎯 **Strange Web Address**

Watch out for addresses like "abcnews.com.co" — that is NOT the real ABC News.

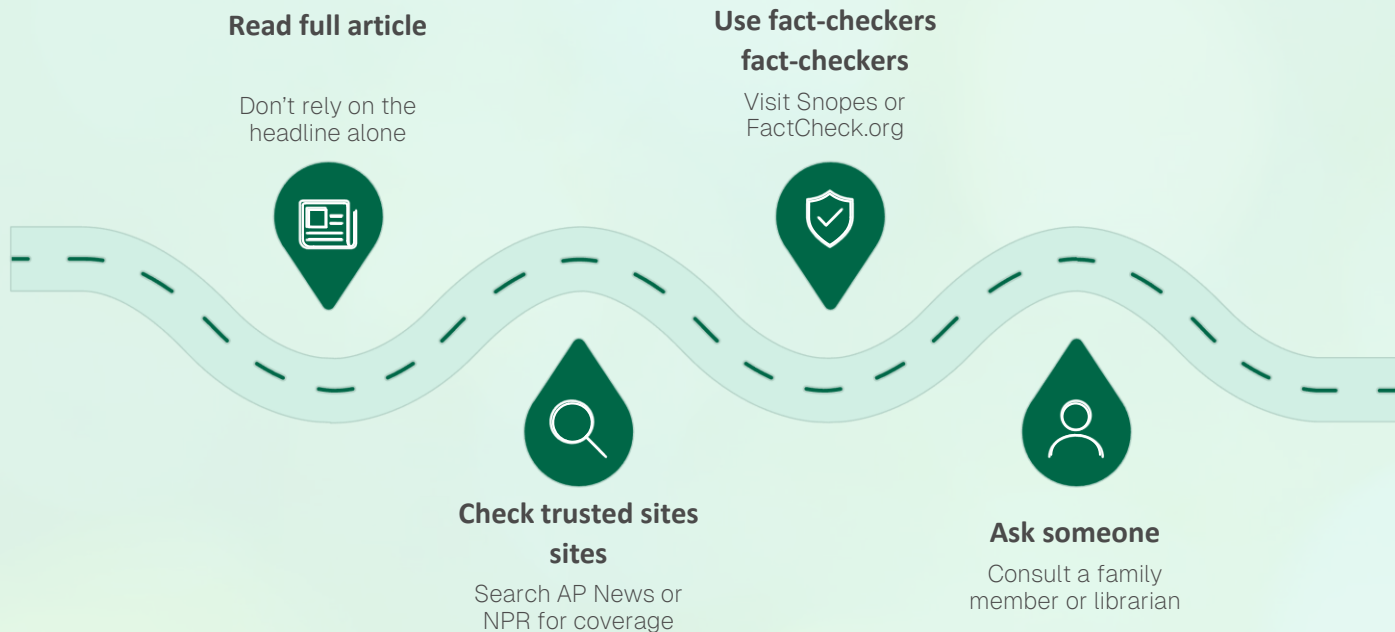
→ 📅 **Old Date, New Panic**

Sometimes old stories are reshared to cause fear. Always check the date.


⊗ Warning: Never share a story before you check if it's true. Even family members accidentally spread fake news!

How to Fact-Check a Story

Fact-checking means checking if a story is true before you believe it or share it. It only takes a minute — and it can protect you and your loved ones.



These free fact-checking websites are your best friends: [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com), [FactCheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org), and [PolitiFact.com](https://www.politifact.com). Just type the headline into their search box to see if it's been verified.

 New word: **Fact-check** — to verify that a piece of information is true by looking it up in a reliable source.

Watching News Safely on YouTube

YouTube has real news channels — but it also has videos that spread false information. Here's how to stay safe.

Look for the Gray Checkmark

Official news channels on YouTube show a small checkmark ✓ next to their name. This means YouTube has verified them.



Avoid Unknown Channels

If a channel has very few subscribers or no description, do not trust its news videos.

Search by Channel Name


Type "PBS NewsHour" or "ABC News" directly — don't just click the first video that appears.

⚠️ Avoid videos that promise miracle cures, secret government plots, or news "they don't want you to see." These are almost always false.




Searching for Information Online


When you want to look something up — like a doctor's phone number, a medication, or local services — knowing how to search well makes a big difference.



Tip 1: Be Specific. Type full questions like “nearest pharmacy open Sunday”.



Tip 2: Use Trusted Domains. Prefer .gov, .org for information.



Tip 3: Check Multiple Results. Compare top results before clicking the first link.

✓ Good Search Examples

- "Medicare benefits 2024 site:medicare.gov"
- "bus route 12 schedule [your city]"
- "flu shot locations near me"

✗ Searches to Be Careful With

- Avoid searching for symptoms and believing the first result
- Don't click on ads at the very top — scroll past them



New word: **.gov** — a web address ending in .gov belongs to a real U.S. government agency. Very trustworthy!

Health Information Online — Be Careful!

Health misinformation — false medical information — is one of the most dangerous types of fake news. It can lead people to skip real medical care or take unsafe remedies.



Trust These Sources

- [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) — Centers for Disease Control
- [NIH.gov](https://www.nih.gov) — National Institutes of Health
- [MayoClinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org) — respected medical center
- Your own doctor's office website



Red Flags to Avoid

- "Doctors don't want you to know this!"
- Claims of miracle cures or instant results
- No medical expert is named or quoted
- Asks you to buy a product to get the "cure"

 Always check with your doctor before changing medications or trying a new health remedy you read about online.

Using Weather Apps

A **weather app** shows today's forecast, temperature, and upcoming conditions for your exact location. It's one of the most useful daily tools on your phone.



Recommended Apps

Weather.com and the built-in Weather app on your phone are safe, free, and easy to read.



Allow Your Location

When the app asks "Use your location?" tap **Allow**. This gives you the forecast for your exact neighborhood.



Set Severe Weather Alerts

Turn on notifications for storms or extreme heat so you're never caught off guard — especially important before outdoor appointments.

