



“Oh I don’t know what to believe ...” Critical thinking resources list.

1. Fact checking – do it yourself.

- BBC reality check bbc.co.uk/news/reality_check
- Channel 4 fact check channel4.com/news/factcheck
- Full Fact is an independent, nonpartisan team of independent fact checkers. Website fullfact.org and various resources below:
 - Check out misleading/false claims on social media around COVID-19: fullfact.org/health/coronavirus
 - Guidance on how to fact-check claims around COVID-19: fullfact.org/health/how-to-fact-check-coronavirus
 - If you have WhatsApp, chat with Full Fact direct to check out claims: fullfact.org/blog/2020/sep/full-fact-whatsapp-uk
- International Fact Checking Network’s database of fact checks on COVID-19 from around the world: poynter.org/ifcn-covid-19-misinformation
- Sense about Science is an independent charity that champions the public interest in sound science: senseaboutscience.org
 - The charity’s Ask for Evidence tool offers guidance to allow you to check a claim yourself: askforevidence.org/index

2. Social media and apps to fight misinformation.

- Facebook tips to spot false news: facebook.com/help/188118808357379
- How to check if an image you have seen on social media is real – three quick ways to verify images on a smartphone: giijn.org/2018/02/27/3-quick-ways-verify-images-smartphone



- Instagram reducing the spread of false information: help.instagram.com/1735798276553028
- RAND Corporation Fighting Disinformation Project. A comprehensive list of online tools to combat disinformation: rand.org/research/projects/truth-decay/fighting-disinformation/search.html
- WhatsApp how to use its fact-checking tool: businessinsider.com/how-to-use-whatsapp-fact-check?r=US&IR=T
- WhatsApp fact-checking tool link: blog.whatsapp.com/search-the-web

3. Spotting fake news/general purpose resources, getting behind the headlines.

- American Medical Association on how medics can combat COVID-19 misinformation: ama-assn.org/delivering-care/patient-support-advocacy/covid-19-misinformation-what-physicians-can-do-stop-it
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions on how to spot fake news: ifla.org/publications/node/11174
- Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), report counterfeit/bogus treatments and medicines: yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/counterfeit-products
- NHS Behind the Headlines, a guide to the science that makes the news: nhs.uk/news
- Science Media Centre, accurate information about science, particularly on controversial and headline news stories when most confusion and misinformation arise: sciencemediacentre.org
- Skeptic magazine, top 10 tips on how to spot medical misinformation in a pandemic: skeptic.org.uk/2020/12/how-to-spot-medical-misinformation-in-a-pandemic-our-top-10-tips



4. Books – some introductory texts on critical thinking.

- Ben Goldacre, *Bad Science*, London, 2008: easily the best layperson's text on critical thinking, scientific concepts, statistics and so on. A must-read for anyone interested in this subject.
- David Spiegelhalter, *The Art of Statistics*, 2019, fairly accessible layperson's guide on how to understand the world by numbers (and how not to be misled by them).
- Stephen Law, *Believing Bullshit: How Not to Get Sucked into an Intellectual Black Hole*, 2011, on how not to fall for various ploys of conspiracy theorists.
- Thomas Gilovich, *How We Know What Isn't So, The Fallibility of Human Reason in Everyday Life*, 1991, classic text on how our natural tendency to use reason to see patterns in everyday life can mislead us.