

IS IT NEWS?

You can't tell if it's news just by looking at it.

By using a computer, smartphone, or microphone, anyone can make it look or sound like they are a reporter. So how can you tell if it's really news? Look for these clues...

To get the facts, real journalists ask:

Who? – Who was involved? What are their names, titles, and relationship to the event?

What? – What happened?

When? – When did it happen?

Where? – Where did it happen?

Why? – Why did it happen? (factual reasons, not the reporter's opinion)



Reporters use these questions to gather information. Then they create a report according to journalism's professional standards (rules) and ethics (doing what's right).

Before the report is shared, all the important facts and quotes are checked to be sure they are correct.

News is:

F **Fair** – The reporter does not take sides. They seek sources who are experts, witnesses, or participants and let people speak for themselves.

A **Accurate** – The reporter shares only information they are sure is correct. When they make a mistake, they tell their audience as quickly as possible and give the correct information. And when a speaker says something untrue, the reporter tells us why it is not true.

C **Complete** – The reporter tells the whole story. When there are more than two sides, they report all the relevant views.

T **Transparent** – The reporter tells us who their sources are except when giving a name would put people in danger. The reporter also tells us if they have any personal link to the story that might make it hard for them to be fair (like reporting about their family or friend).