DAY 42 · Part 4 · What to Watch Out For

Can you trust this story? — Fake news

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Oct 18, 2026

Looking convincing isn't evidence anymore. Source, date, somewhere else — judge by those three.

In a nutshell

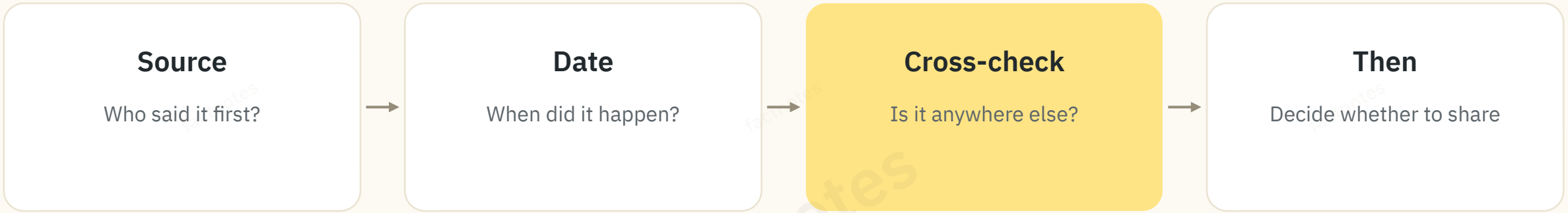
1. Spotting fake news isn't about having a sharp eye — it's about **order**. Check three things in turn and most of it gets filtered out.

2. **Who said it first (source), when it happened (date), and whether it shows up anywhere else (cross-check)** — if even one of these is empty, stop.

3. Now that AI can make text and photos in seconds, **'it looks convincing' doesn't count as evidence anymore**. Don't trust your eyes — trust the clues.

In one picture

Three boxes before you believe it



If you get stuck at any of the three boxes, just stop there. Stopping is a decision too.

Key idea: judge by source, date and cross-check — not by how convincing it looks

Experiment · Pick one

Can you trust this story?

Seems trustworthy

When this one fits

- ✓ You got a notice your school district...
- ✓ Three different news outlets each rep...
- ✓ It comes with a link to the original...

Check again first

When this one fits

- ✓ 'BREAKING! All schools nationwide clo...
- ✓ A photo captioned 'our neighborhood y...
- ✓ It says 'according to an expert, some...

The rule

How to choose

- ✓ If source, date or cross-check is mis...

These are situations you could really run into in a group chat or your feed. Keep the three clues in mind — sou...

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-42/

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What are the three clues to check before you believe a story?

① Length, font, number of photos
② Headline, emoji, tone
③ Views, comments, likes
④ Source, date, cross-check

Q2

Because of AI, what can't you use as evidence anymore?

① It looks convincing
② There's a link to the original
③ It has a date on it
④ Several places ran it

Q3

Which of these is most trustworthy?

① Group-chat post, no source
② Notice with original link
③ Unnamed expert's claim
④ Photo from 3 years ago

Know the why, too

Q1

④

Who said it first, when it happened, and whether it's anywhere else. Those three filter out most of it.

Q2

①

AI can make real-looking text and photos in seconds, so looking convincing isn't proof of anything anymore.

Q3

②

If you can open the original yourself, source and date get sorted out in one go. That's why a link beats a screenshot.

Looking convincing isn't evidence anymore.
Source, date, somewhere else — judge by those three.

Tomorrow: AI scams — a call that copies someone's voice: where do you hang up?