

Example 1



Translation

Think first – Then click

Hello is there anything to it I think rather not

BREAKING NEWS

N24

News

3 rapes in Cologne, one of them a policewoman from whom the service weapon was extracted! She did not manage to get it back and was touched several times and finally raped by several asylum seekers!

The report has just been confirmed on RTL!

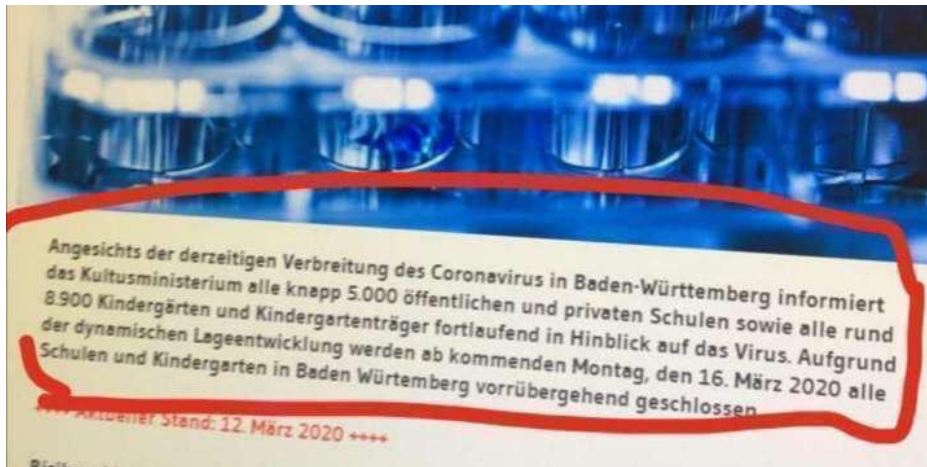
The truth "24h News"



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ Numbers are not written out → unserious for a news magazine
- ✗ Punctuation is wrong (commas, exclamation marks) → you can't become a journalist without a certain knowledge of spelling and style...
- ✗ Word choice incorrect, "extracted"
- ✗ Upper/lower case after exclamation mark wrong
- ✗ Sentence structure too complicated for "breaking news"
- ✗ Desperate reference to other less reputable source. How is one supposed to know where RTL (German private channel) got the news from?
- ✗ reference to "truth"

Example 2

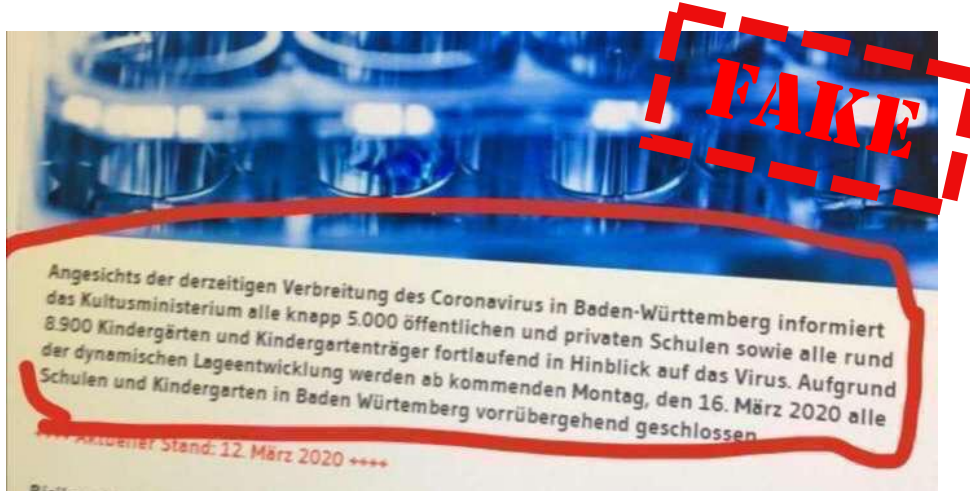


Shared on WhatsApp on the 12th March 2020

Design looking like the official website of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in the state of Baden-Württemberg

Translation

In view of the current spread of the coronavirus in Baden-Württemberg, the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs is continuously informing all of the almost 5,000 public and private schools as well as all of the approximately 8,900 kindergartens and kindergarten providers with regard to the virus. Due to the dynamic development of the situation, all schools and kindergartens in Baden-Württemberg will be temporarily closed as of next Monday, 16 March 2020.



Possible clues for fake back then:

- ✗ photography from the screen is supposed to prove authenticity (meaning: look, this has already been digitised) → but: no source
- ✗ Missing comma after “16 March 2020” according to German spelling rules
- ✗ “Kindergarten” in the plural without ä
- ✗ Spread via social media (in this case WhatsApp) instead of serious news portals
- ✗ Consequence: the page of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs was so overloaded afterwards that one could not retrieve any information at all - i.e. could not inform oneself.

Example 3

Shared on social media



Translation

Catch-up lessons

Bavaria decides to cut summer holidays

Due to the cancelled classes in the 3 weeks before Easter caused by the coronavirus, the Minister of Education and the State Government have agreed to shorten the summer holidays at Bavarian schools by 3 weeks.

By Kevin Hagen and Christian Teevs

01.04.2022, 08:46 am



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ photography from the screen is supposed to prove authenticity (meaning: look, this has already been digitised)
- ✗ Numbers are not written out → lack of spelling skills exposes the report as fake
- ✗ Unnecessary comma after “Easter”
- ✗ Date: April Fool’s joke? ;)
- ✗ other media reported the fake:

“Summer holidays cut short? Father's April Fool's joke backfires completely

A letter is currently circulating on Whatsapp, according to which the "Spiegel" is supposed to have reported on a reduction of the summer holidays in Bavaria. The letter is fake news. A father who wanted to trick his children on 1 April had spread it.”

https://www.focus.de/panorama/welt/angeblicher-spiegel-bericht-bayern-beschliesst-kuerzung-der-sommerferien-fake-news-kursiert-auf-whatsapp_id_11840161.html

Example 4

Shared on social media



Translation

19. August at 08:13pm

It's sad that the German government doesn't figure this out on its own. Bans the "negro kiss", the "gypsy schnitzel", but still calls the driving licence a leading (Führer) licence....

INVALID

EU bans German driving licence

You still have a driving licence? It is basically invalid, according to the announcement from Brussels. If it is called Driving licence, Permis de conduire or Prawo jazdy, so it is valid - even if our neighbours also have their driving licence in the ...

NEEWS.DE.COM



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ Emotionalising
- ✗ Not a reputable source – although it tries to evoke trustworthiness by the term “news”
- ✗ such news would be found everywhere in the media if they were true
- ✗ The fact is that it is STILL called a driving licence...

Example 5

alleged election poster by Christian Democratic Union (major political party in German, have ruled for 16 years)



Translation

CDU

If something comes up on election day.

Vote for the CDU today by postal vote.



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ Image has been edited, margins do not fit
- ✗ Text is real, picture is false → taken out of context.
- ✗ Dubious and tasteless, does not fit to a party like the CDU

Example 6

Supposed quote from former Chancellor Angela Merkel



Translation

"We should not exploit such attacks as in Paris as Islamophobia, but accept them as a part of our lives in order not to endanger the integration of our Muslim fellow citizens"



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ A picture and a quote do not necessarily belong together
- ✗ No source apparent
- ✗ Choice of words inappropriate/unusual for former Chancellor Merkel
- ✗ Dot missing at the end

Example 7



Translation

Caption of the alleged sender:

We have the West to thank for this situation. They support the fascists in Kiev.



Possible clues for fake:

- ✗ Author: Why should a country express itself in this way? That would be highly undiplomatic.
- ✗ Supposed link is meant to feign authenticity.
- ✗ Image is meant to emotionalise and provoke, in the style of a meme, therefore highly inappropriate for a supposedly reputable source.
- ✗ Picture taken out of context, originally from a Russian film
- ✗ as the original fake post can no longer be found this is a recreation, which proves how easily such messages be imitated using tools from the internet