

Bridge



“You have no control over what is on the TV news or in the paper.”

“Families watch the news together but read print and online media alone.”

“Online and TV are both on screens, but TV is more passive, like print.”

“Online news is risky because there’s a lot of fake news.”

“Young people don’t read magazines any more, except for *Bridge*.”

Talk with a friend about where you learn about the news and why.

Example Dialogue

Marlon: I don't read newspapers any more. I don't trust them.

Betsy: Why not? They're more reliable than TV.

Marlon: Oh, I don't trust TV either! TV stations and newspapers are the same.

Betsy: That's silly. Of course they aren't!

Marlon: They are – they are all owned by rich businessmen these days.

Betsy: That's sometimes true, but not always. The BBC for example.

Marlon: OK, if not by businesspeople then they're owned by governments. It's propaganda.

Betsy: That's not really how the BBC works – it's paid by people. Anyway, who do you trust?

Marlon: I get my news online.

Betsy: I do, too, but it's even less reliable, I think. You don't know where it's from.

Marlon: That's why I use different sources – Facebook, Twitter, Reddit...

Betsy: Ah, you mean social networks full of fake news.

Marlon: Don't be ridiculous. There's some fake news, but you can fact-check stories more easily.

Betsy: I still trust print media more. That includes newspaper websites.

Marlon: Why?

Betsy: You have professional journalists, not just some random person.

Marlon: You can read all those stories online too, but you also get different viewpoints.

Betsy: What about radio news?

Marlon: Radio?! What year is it, 1980? Radio is good for music in the car, and that's it.

Betsy: That's not true!

Discuss

Do you think it's important to know what's going on in the world? In your country? What kind of news do you look for – current affairs, politics, celebrity news, culture news?

What media do you use? Do you trust the media? Why or why not? Do you think there's a problem with "fake news"? Do you fact-check things you read or see? How?

Talk about the different ways you can get news on different topics. What do you know about the different news media in your country? What TV stations are there? What about print media such as newspapers or magazines? Websites, blogs, Instagram accounts, Facebook accounts, YouTube channels, etc.?

With a partner, take turns to talk about different countries.

Some Useful Phrases

- fact-checking
- online / broadcast / print media
- propaganda / state media / independent media
- (un)biased news / independent sources
- ad funded / state funded / subscription funded / public service
- paywall
- journalist / columnist / editor / publisher / presenter / host / guest
- social media / social networks
- news programme