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

1. **Social media and apps to fight misinformation.**

* Facebook tips to spot false news: [facebook.com/help/188118808357379](https://www.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: [gijn.org/2018/02/27/3-quick-ways-verify-images-smartphone](https://gijn.org/2018/02/27/3-quick-ways-verify-images-smartphone/)
* Instagram reducing the spread of false information: [help.instagram.com/1735798276553028](https://help.instagram.com/1735798276553028)
* RAND Corporation Fighting Disinformation Project. A comprehensive list of [online tools to combat disinformation](https://www.rand.org/research/projects/truth-decay/fighting-disinformation/search.html): [rand.org/research/projects/truth-decay/fighting-disinformation/search.html](https://www.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](https://businessinsider.com/how-to-use-whatsapp-fact-check?r=US&IR=T)
* WhatsApp fact-checking tool link: [blog.whatsapp.com/search-the-web](https://blog.whatsapp.com/search-the-web)

1. **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](https://www.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](https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174)
* Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**,** report counterfeit/bogustreatments and medicines: [yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/counterfeit-products](https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/counterfeit-products/)
* Science Media Centre, accurate information about science, particularly on controversial and headline news stories when most confusion and misinformation arise: [sciencemediacentre.org](https://www.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](https://www.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.