Vocabulary to pre-teach

image   edited

misleading   headline

forced perspective

caption

miscaption

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Lesson 7

Questioning images in the news

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Before teaching this lesson, refer to guidance on creating a safe learning environment for PSHE education, including establishing agreed ground rules for discussion.

What ground rules do we need to remember for today's lesson?

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Remind the class of the ground rules for PSHE lessons.

Shrinking machine invented

Florence Ackland

What do you notice about this image?

How do you think it was created?

Why do you think someone might use this image?

How might this image make a reader feel?

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Ask pupils to respond to the questions on slide 3 (for example, using think, pair, share). Adjust the lesson as needed based on the starting points you observe.

This image made the girl seem much smaller than she really is.

This is called forced perspective.

Explain this image was designed to make the viewer see things a certain way – or to change their 'perspective'. The girl was positioned further away from the camera, and the chair placed in a particular position to make her look especially small. This kind of image is called 'forced perspective'.

Forced perspective images can make things look smaller, bigger, closer or further away than they really are.

Learning objective

To question images presented in news stories

Learning outcomes

- Recognise that pictures in news stories can be used in misleading ways, and describe the effect this could have
- Identify some misleading ways in which images might be used in news reports
- Apply strategies for spotting misleading images

Journalist training school

A good journalist knows that images can be faked and used to trick people into believing fake news. They need to be able to spot misleading images so they can avoid reporting fake news themselves.

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Share the learning objective and outcomes, and ask what 'misleading image' means? This is when an image is used in the news in a way that makes things seem different from how they really are. Just like that image of the boy – he hadn't really shrunk! The image (and the caption) suggested something untrue.

Ask pupils to stand on an imaginary line to show how much they agree / disagree with the statement: 'It's OK for a news report to use misleading images to grab the reader's attention'.

You could take a photo of pupils' positions to review at the end of the lesson.

A caption describes what is happening in an image

This is the caption

The sun sets over some mountains.

Dawid Zawila/Unsplash

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Emphasise that while many news reports use images truthfully, some don't - so it's useful to know how to spot different types of misleading images.

Use this slide to remind pupils what caption means before introduce the term 'miscaptioned image' on the next slide.

miscaptioned image

When a caption says that a photo shows something it doesn't

A Gardener in Germany works out how to grow money trees

B Ancient treasure dug up from thousands of years ago

Do you think your caption describes what is happening in the picture? Why or why not?

If someone believes this, how might they feel or behave?

Why someone have made this image?

Ask half the class to focus on caption A and half the class to focus on caption B, discussing the questions on the slide in small groups. Bring the class back together to discuss ideas, making sure pupils recognise that:

• Both these photos have been miscaptioned – see next slide for further information

• Caption A: The reader might feel excited, and they might try and find the gardener to learn more about how to grow money, Caption B: The reader might feel amazed or impressed, they might tell others the news.

• For both captions, someone might have wanted to shock or amaze the reader and get them to share the story with others.

Challenge: Can groups think of another caption that would have a different effect on the reader?

£50 notes buried in soil

This is the real caption.

How might the reader feel when they realise that the other captions are not true?

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Explain that this photo really shows 50 pound notes being buried in the soil – not money trees or ancient treasure!

Ask the class how the reader might feel if they discovered that the captions weren't true? For example, annoyed, embarrassed or confused.

What tips could help someone spot a <u>miscaptioned image</u>?

Look for clues in the image.

Is there anything that suggests the image isn't what, where or when the caption claims?

If you are still not sure, a trusted adult can help check other trusted news sources to see what images they are using for the story.

They could also help with a reverse image search.

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Share these tips for spotting miscaptioned images.

Tell pupils that a reverse image search allows people to put an image into the internet 'search bar' to see a list of places where that image can be found on the internet. It is important that a child is supervised by an adult when doing a reverse image search.
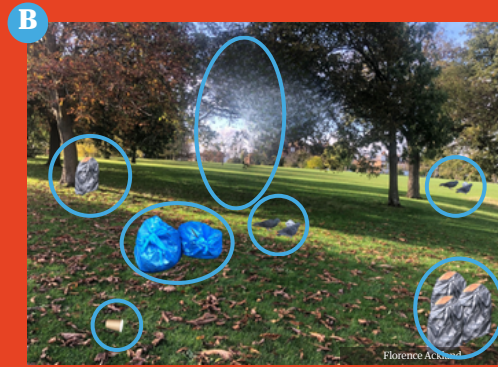
Now the class will look at another type of misleading image – edited images.

Can you find all of the differences between these two images?

Which image is the original and which has been edited?

Ask pupils to identify the differences between the two images on this slide. When they've found them all, use animation to check their answers, before asking which of the images pupils think is the original and which one has been edited?

Can you find all of the differences between these two images?

Which image is the original and which has been edited?

Explain that image A has been edited.

Clues that suggest this include:

• that the black bin bags all look exactly the same – they have been copied and pasted

• there are some shadows missing where we'd expect to see them - e.g. the pigeons don't have any shadows

• where the tree has been removed, it looks a bit blurry (or pixelated)

Emphasise that images can be edited by adding things, taking things away, or mixing images together. And it won't always be easy to spot!

Imagine this picture was shared with the headline:

Picnickers leave park in total mess

Why might someone have edited this image in this way?

As a whole class, discuss why someone might have edited the image in this way. Answers might include, to match their headline, to make the story look more exciting or dramatic, to make people feel angry or annoyed at the picknickers, or to grab their reader's attention.

What tips could help someone spot an <u>edited image</u>?

Look for clues in the image.

Do parts of the image look strangely out of place?

Is anything blurry (or pixelated)?

Can you spot missing shadows?

If you are still not sure, a trusted adult can help check other trusted news sources to see what images they are using for the story.

They could also help with a reverse image search.

Share these tips for spotting edited images.
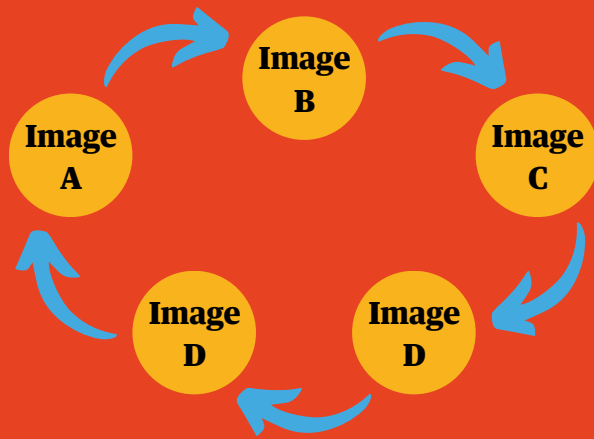
In pairs, discuss and agree your choice for each image. Record your response on your sheet.

Now the class are going to try to detect misleading images in news stories. Organise pairs of pupils to move around the Real or misleading images, discussing whether each one is real and reliable, misleading, or if they're not sure. Allow pairs a few minutes at each image. When the time is up, they can record their decision on the Images carousel sheet.

Phone box libraries launch in China

- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☐ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image A – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it's miscaptioned (the caption says this is taken in China, but the sign says 'telephone' in English and there are clues to suggest the photo is taken in London – for example, the sign in the background says 'London' and there's a red London bus too)

Image A

- [ ] Real and reliable
- [x] Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- [ ] Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- [ ] Misleading because it's **edited**
- [ ] We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Phone box libraries launch in China

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Image B

- [ ] Real and reliable
- [ ] Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- [ ] Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- [ ] Misleading because it's **edited**
- [ ] We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Puppies hit the beach

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image B – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it's edited (it's all exactly the same puppy, and one has a tail cropped out).

Image B

Puppies hit the beach

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- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☑ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image B – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it's edited (it's all exactly the same puppy, and one has a tail cropped out).

Image C

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Girl lifts Ferris wheel

- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☐ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image C – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it uses forced perspective (the girl is much closer to the camera than the Ferris wheel, and her hands have been carefully positioned – though if you look closely, you can see a little gap).

Note: Pairs may notice that some pictures are misleading in more than one way. For example, this image is also miscaptioned - as the girl isn't really lifting the Ferris wheel.

Image C

Girl lifts
Ferris wheel

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- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☑ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☐ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Image C – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it uses forced perspective (the girl is much closer to the camera than the Ferris wheel, and her hands have been carefully positioned – though if you look closely, you can see a little gap).

Note: Pairs may notice that some pictures are misleading in more than one way. For example, this image is also miscaptioned - as the girl isn't really lifting the Ferris wheel.

Image D

Jill Mead / The Guardian

Annoyed queues form in supermarkets during Christmas rush

- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☐ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image D – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it is miscaptioned (they are not in a supermarket – they are outside and don't have shopping baskets etc, some are wearing things like caps – which suggests it might not be winter or Christmas, and they don't look too annoyed either!).

Teacher note: This photo actually shows the queue to see the Queen's lying in state – www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/16/queen-mourners-queue-southwark-park-capacity-reached-London

Image D

- ☐ Real and reliable
- ☑ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**
- ☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**
- ☐ Misleading because it's **edited**
- ☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

Jill Mead / The Guardian

Annoyed queues form in supermarkets during Christmas rush

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image D – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is misleading because it is miscaptioned (they are not in a supermarket – they are outside and don't have shopping baskets etc, some are wearing things like caps – which suggests it might not be winter or Christmas, and they don't look too annoyed either!).

Teacher note: This photo actually shows the queue to see the Queen's lying in state – www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/16/queen-mourners-queue-southwark-park-capacity-reached-London

Image E

Real and reliable

Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**

Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**

Misleading because it's **edited**

We're not sure and we need to find out more

Justin McCurry/ The Guardian

Japan's over 80s football team play a match

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image E – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is real and reliable (the caption matches the photo, and there are no clues in the photo to suggest editing or forced perspective).

Teacher note:
This image is taken from this story - www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/02/japan-ageing-footballers-over-80s-league-soccer-for-life-tokyo

Image E

Justin McCurry/ The Guardian

Japan's over 80s football team play a match

☑ Real and reliable

☐ Misleading because it's **miscaptioned**

☐ Misleading because it uses **forced perspective**

☐ Misleading because it's **edited**

☐ We're not sure and we need to find out more

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Once the carousel is complete, use these slides to run through the answers.

Image E – check pupils thinking and then reveal. This image is real and reliable (the caption matches the photo, and there are no clues in the photo to suggest editing or forced perspective).

Teacher note:
This image is taken from this story - www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/02/japan-ageing-footballers-over-80s-league-soccer-for-life-tokyo

Remember...

If you are unsure about an image or video in the news, you can always ask a trusted adult to help you check a story.

They can help check other news websites or help you to do a reverse image search.

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Remind pupils if they are not sure about an image, they can ask an adult. The adult could help them check what images other trusted news sites are using. They could also carry out a reverse image search together. If images or videos in the news make pupils feel sad or worried, they should talk to an adult too.

Ask pupils to stand once more along the continuum to show the extent to which they agree or disagree with the statement on the slide. See if their positions have changed – a photo could be used to capture this.

Finally, ask pupils to complete the sentences on the Exit ticket to summarise their learning.