



Three places to look. Three questions to ask.

No phone, no grown-up needed. Just your eyes, and about a minute. Grown-ups look at what a picture is *about*. You actually look at the picture. That's your whole advantage.

LOOK When a picture or video makes you feel something, check three places

1

The boring part

The background. The writing on signs.
The edges. The machine works
hardest where it thinks you'll look,
and hardly at all everywhere else.

2

One line, followed to the end

Put your finger on a bag strap, a
railing, a shadow, and follow it. Does
it connect to what it should? The
machine knows what *connected* looks
like, not what connected means.

3

Two moments, one second apart

In a video, pause twice. An earring, a
picture on the wall, a hairstyle. Did
something change that nobody
changed? The machine forgets what it
did a second ago.

The feeling is the delivery van. A picture that makes you angry, jealous or amazed is exactly the picture somebody wanted you to pass on without checking.

~~Count the fingers.~~ That trick worked two years ago. Hands are perfect now, so don't learn a list of mistakes. Learn where to look.

ASK When it's a real photo or a true number, and it might still be lying

?

What's just outside the
picture?

Nobody faked anything. Somebody
decided where to put the edges. It's
the most common trick there is.

?

Who wrote the caption?

And what do they want me to feel?
Words like *soar* and *revolution* do the
feeling for you, because nobody can
check a word like *soar*.

?

Compared to what?

"Three times more likely" than what,
and three times what number? Three
times a tiny number is still a tiny
number.

**A voice on the phone that sounds like family
and says *hurry***

A voice can be copied. Real emergencies happen, but
someone who insists there's no time to check is telling
you about themselves, not the emergency.

Pick a family password. One silly word. Say it out loud
to each other, never message it, never type it
anywhere. If a voice rings sounding upset and urgent,
ask for the word. A machine copying a voice was never
in your kitchen.

Our word is agreed with (write who, not the word): -

The method, when something really matters

Claim

Say it in one clear sentence. Most arguments are
two people arguing about slightly different claims.

Evidence

Before you look, decide what would convince you. If
you look first, you'll find something that agrees with
you.

Source

Who says so, and *how would they know*? Certainty
isn't evidence. It's just volume.

Verdict

True, false, misleading, or not enough evidence.

"Not enough evidence" is a real answer. It isn't giving up and it
isn't losing. It's the honest size of what you actually checked.

This week

Catch one. A picture, a number on a packet, a headline, something a grown-up says at dinner. Look at the boring part first, or ask compared to what? out loud, politely. Then tell someone what happened, because sometimes the answer is brilliant.