

EXAMPLE #1

This post appeared on Twitter. Is it true? What clues make you want to dig deeper? How would you investigate this?



The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter post from the account 'BBC News (UK) @BBCNewsUKI'. The post text reads: 'BREAKING: Buckingham Palace announces the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 90. Circumstances are unknown. More to follow.' Below the text is a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II wearing a tiara and a necklace, smiling. The tweet shows 236 retweets and 59 likes. At the bottom, there are icons for reply (46), retweet (236), like (59), and a menu icon.

BBC NEWS **BBC News (UK)** Follow
UK @BBCNewsUKI

BREAKING: Buckingham Palace announces the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 90. Circumstances are unknown. More to follow.

RETWEETS 236 LIKES 59

46 236 59

From:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/community/digital-lab/fake-news-quiz-how-to-spot/article33821986/>

EXAMPLE #2

This post appeared online was widely shared on social media. What clues make you want to dig deeper?
How would you investigate this?

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Gizmo Files Lawsuit Against Disney Over 'Baby Yoda', Claims Company Stole His Likeness

POSTED ON [JANUARY 12, 2020](#) BY [BOB THE EMPIRE NEWS POTATO](#)

[Twitter](#) [f | LIKE](#) [0](#)



LOS ANGELES, California –

Gremlins star Gizmo has filed a lawsuit in a Los Angeles superior court against Disney over their latest viral property, "Baby Yoda," also known as The Child, from the hit Disney+ series *The Mandalorian*. Gizmo claims that Disney stole his likeness when they created the cute, cuddly character.

"My client is clearly the basis for the new Disney character affectionately known as Baby Yoda, and designers at Disney knew exactly what they were doing when they developed The Child's final form," said lawyer Chris Dante, who is representing Gizmo. "We are seeking damages for the extreme distress, loss of work, and emotional turmoil that Baby Yoda has caused my client. I am confident we have a strong case."

Lawyers for Disney could not be reached for comment, but an anonymous employee who works on *The Mandalorian* said that there were draft notes that indicated Disney executives "very much" wanted to have a new character that "was 50% Yoda, 50% Gizmo, and 100% adorable."

Gizmo first rose to fame in 1984 with his starring role in the Christmas-themed horror film *Gremlins*.

[Twitter](#) [f | LIKE](#) [0](#)

From:

<https://empirenews.net/gizmo-files-lawsuit-against-disney-over-baby-yoda-claims-company-stole-his-likeness/>

EXAMPLE #3

This post on Instagram shows a laminated card that says it exempts the owner from "any ordinance requiring face mask usage in public." What clues make you want to dig deeper? How would you investigate this?



From:

<https://slate.com/technology/2020/06/ada-exemption-face-mask-cards-utter-nonsense.html>

EXAMPLE #4

This image of a raccoon hitching a ride on an alligator became a viral sensation. What clues make you want to dig deeper? How would you investigate this?

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Man captures photo of raccoon 'riding an alligator'

f iMessage Twitter Email Share



WFTV

A man walking in a national forest in central Florida has captured a rare image of a raccoon appearing to ride on the back of an alligator.

From:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-33143367>

EXAMPLE #5

This image of a “30-foot crocodile” was shared on Twitter. Note the number of views! What clues make you want to dig deeper? How would you investigate this?

 **Tansu YEĞEN** ✓
@TansuYegen

This has to be the world's largest and a man-eating, 30-foot crocodile located in a Maine lake 🇺🇸



12:13 PM · Jun 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

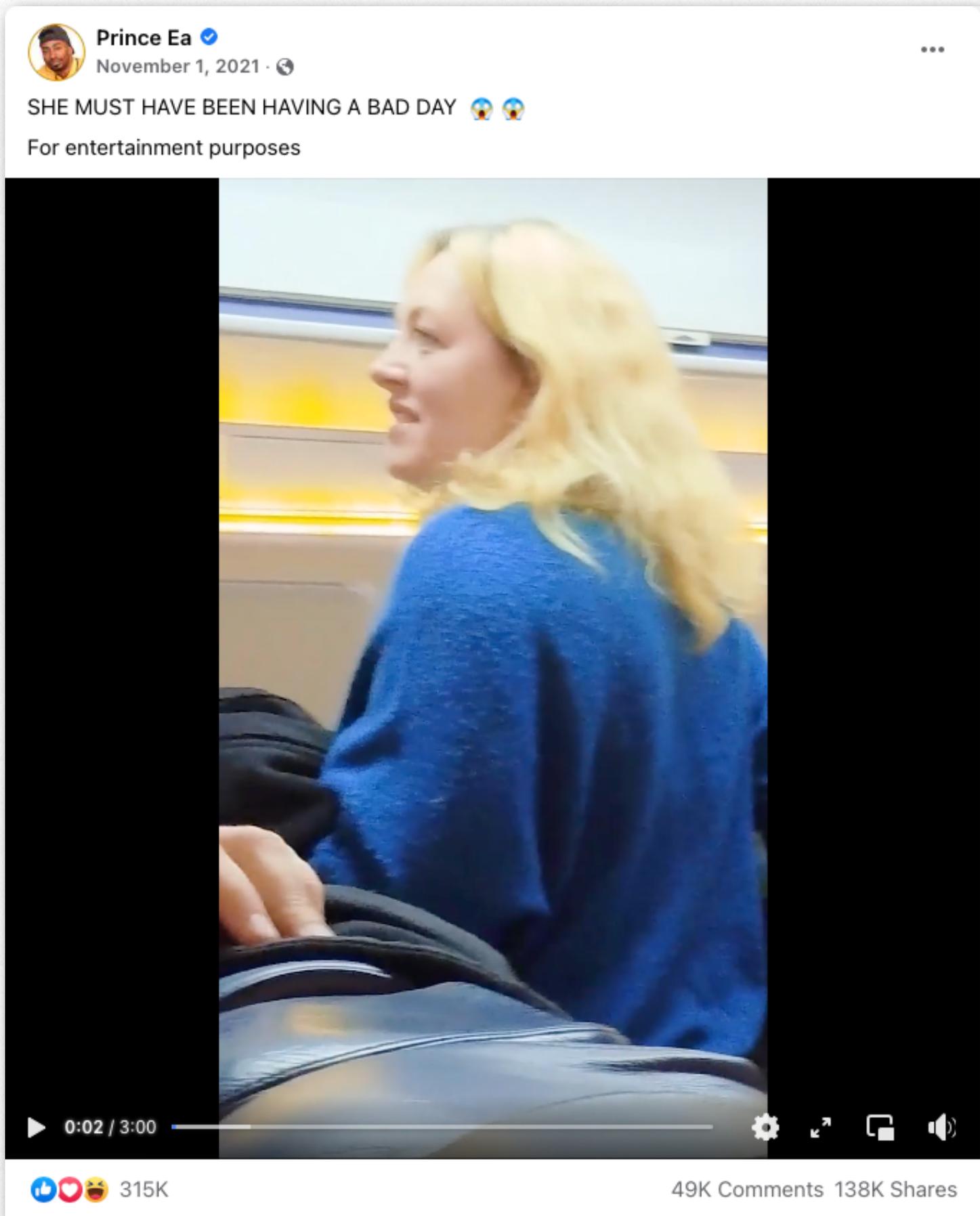
1,512 Retweets **177** Quote Tweets **5,778** Likes

From:

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/30-foot-long-man-eating-crocodile/>

EXAMPLE #6

This video (play it in Slides)— which appeared on TikTok, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter—went viral on social media. It shows a maskless woman having a tantrum on an airplane because she is being forced to sit next to a man she presumes is unvaccinated. What clues make you want to dig deeper? How would you investigate this?



A screenshot of a Facebook post by Prince Ea, dated November 1, 2021. The post features a video of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue sweater, sitting on an airplane. She is looking to her left with a frustrated expression. The video player shows a progress bar at 0:02 / 3:00. Below the video, the post has 315K reactions (likes, loves, and angry faces) and 49K comments and 138K shares.

Prince Ea ✓
November 1, 2021 · 🌐

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING A BAD DAY 🤯🤯
For entertainment purposes

0:02 / 3:00

315K 49K Comments 138K Shares

From:

https://www.kdrv.com/archive/think-this-airplane-altercation-looks-fake-thats-because-it-is/article_dc4de71a-f297-5107-b9e1-87545c42453c.html

TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. **NOT TRUE:** First of all, if the Queen was dead, that would be big news. You could easily check further by checking legitimate news sources. Second, while the BBC's U.K. news feed is named "BBC News (UK)," its handle is @BBCNews, not @BBCNewsUKI. The extra "I" at the end, which a reader in a hurry might mistake for a parenthesis, is a clue that the account is not real.
2. **SATIRE:** The first clue is the fact that Gizmo is not a real person. Additionally, the author's name is suspicious: *Bob The Empire News Potato*. A little research into the "About" section of *The Empire News* website quickly reveals that it "*is intended for entertainment purposes only. Our website and social media content uses only fictional names, except in cases of public figure and celebrity parody or satirization. Any other use of real names is accidental and coincidental.*"
3. **PARTLY TRUE.** The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) does require that businesses with mandatory mask rules for customers must accommodate people who may not be able to wear masks due to medical conditions or disabilities. So that much is true. However, this face mask "exempt" card, which appeared in multiple places online, was declared fraudulent by the U.S. Department of Justice (a visit to their website would verify this). The FTBA, the organization mentioned on the card to "report" potential violations to, does not appear to be officially recognized by any government agencies as an enforcing body. You could visit www.ftbagency.com and discover there is no such site!
4. **NOT TRUE.** This is a tricky one because the source, BBC News, is a legitimate news organization. However, the photo is a fake. The raccoon-riding-an-alligator story went viral in 2015, spreading from Florida media to global news outlets like the BBC. But it all turned out to be a hoax by American performance artist Zardulu, who staged the photo with taxidermied animals.
5. **HOAX.** This image from a video claiming to show people swimming around what is purportedly a 30-foot-long, 'man-eating' crocodile, was in fact taken from the set of the 1999 film "Lake Placid" and features an animatronic crocodile. A clue is the watermark for The Stan Winston School of Character Arts in the lower left hand corner of the source of the video. Stan Winston was in charge of creature effects and special effects for a number of films, including the "Terminator" franchise, "Jurassic Park," and more. Also, the person who posted the tweet, Tansu Yegen, has these hashmarks in his bio (#viral #funny).
6. **PARODY OR HOAX.** This video was produced by a man known as Prince Ea, an entertainer and creator of online content who has a history of using authentic-sounding titles about hot-button issues to get people to watch (a quick check of his Twitter account reveals this). He used professional actors for this video. Another clue is the three-word disclaimer, "For entertainment purposes," on the initial Nov. 1 Facebook post of the video. Unfortunately, Prince Ea posted additional versions without the disclaimer, and others shared the video without the disclaimer as well.



TERMS TO KNOW

"FAKE" NEWS

A popular term that refers to news stories that are false.

SATIRE

A form of communication that uses humor to poke fun or ridicule.

PARODY

A humorous or mocking imitation of something.

HOAXES

Humorous or malicious deceptions.