BRITISH COUNCIL

Webinars for teachers series
—
Digital literacy for teachers

3 December 2021

Session objectives

By the end of the session you will:

- have a better understanding of what are digital literacies

- become more aware about the importance of teaching digital literacies

- experience an activity that incorporates information literacy in an English language lesson

Agree or disagree?

1. Being digitally literate is knowing how to operate a computer, smart phone or any internet enabled device.

2. My students have better understanding of using digital tools and there isn't much I can teach.

3. There is no place for digital literacy in the language syllabus.

What does it mean to be literate?

Back in the day...

Reading, writing, arithmetic

Now

Beyond the conventional skills of reading, writing and counting skills, literacy is now understood as **a means of identification, understanding, interpretation, creation, and communication** in an increasingly **digital, text-mediated, information-rich and fast-changing world.**

https://en.unesco.org/themes/literacy

What does it mean to be digitally literate?

a) Creating a blog post

b) Knowing how to search for information using a search engine

c) Uploading photos on social media platforms

d) Creating memes

e) Reading and writing text messages quickly and accurately

f) Posting responses to comments, blogs and emails

What does it mean to be digitally literate?

a) Creating a blog post ✓

b) Knowing how to search for information using a search engine ✓

c) Uploading photos on social media platforms ✓

d) Creating memes ✓

e) Reading and writing text messages ✓

f) Posting responses to comments, blogs and emails that are appropriate to the context ✓

Digital Literacy is understood as a range of sub-skills or *literacies* and refers to our ability to effectively make use of the technologies at our disposal.

What does it mean to be digitally literate?

Not just a checklist of technical skills, but also about the social practices that surround the use of new media.

- Creating a blog post

Knowing how to use this to connect with a wider audience of readers and writers

Knowing how to promote your blog to new readers

- Uploading photos on social media platforms

Knowing whether to publish them under a Creative Commons license and highlight digital rights and usage.
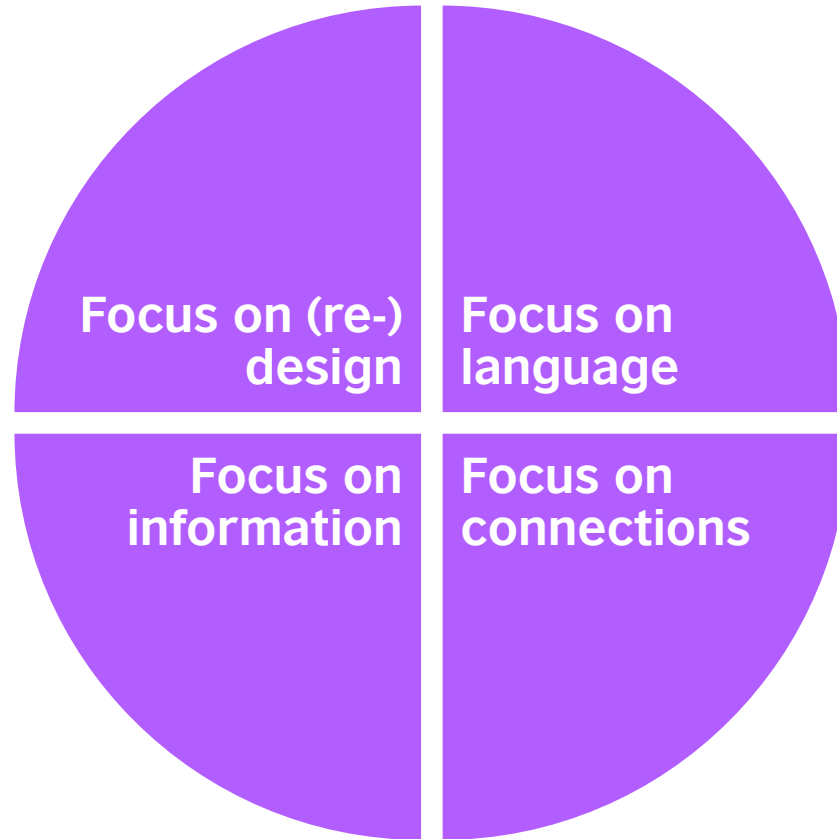
Knowing when to restrict privacy

- Posting responses to comments, blogs and emails

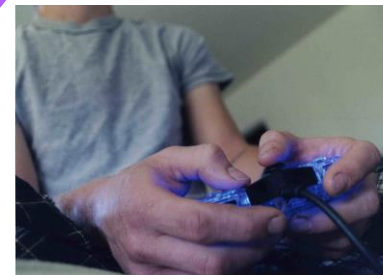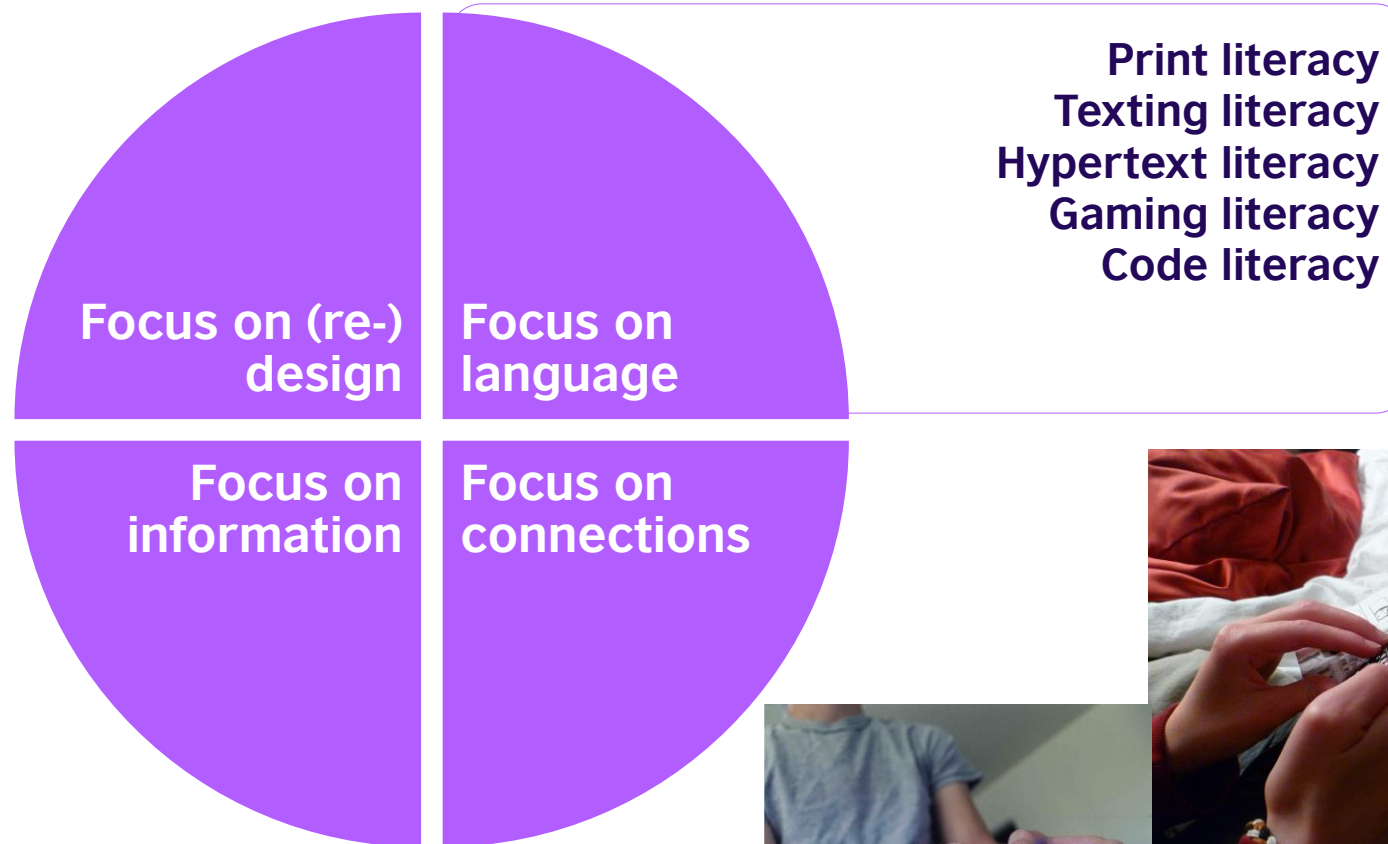**Knowing how to post responses that are appropriate to the context and the reader**

Source::https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/gavin-dudeney-digital-literacy-primer
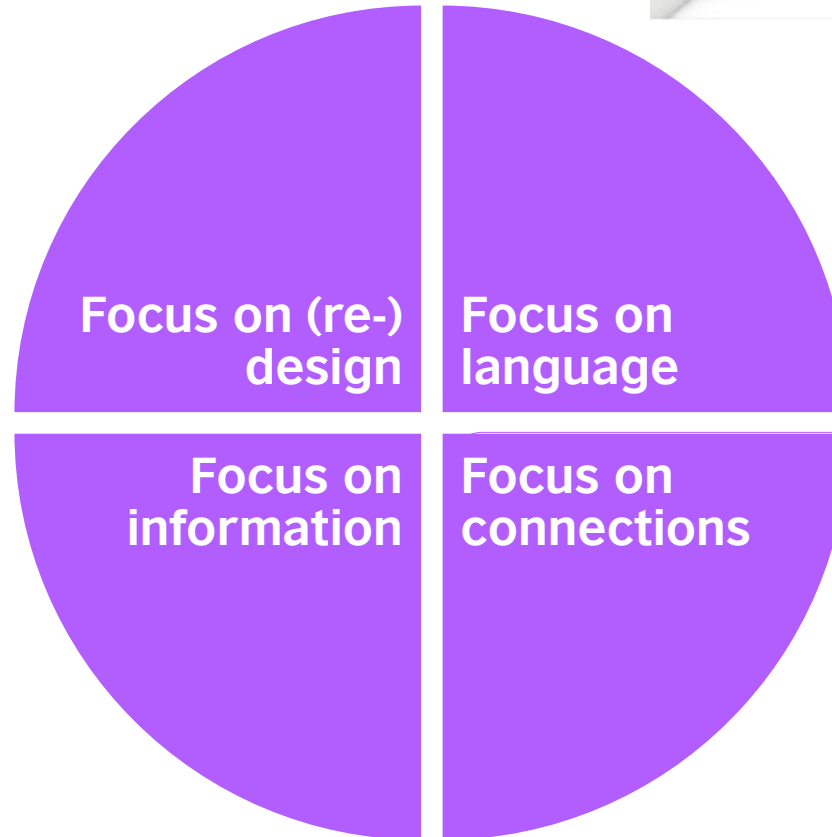
What are digital literacies?

What are digital literacies?

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits, and personal development. Educational methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion and directed research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators; however, learners can also educate themselves. Education can take place in formal or informal settings, and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The methodology of teaching is called pedagogy.

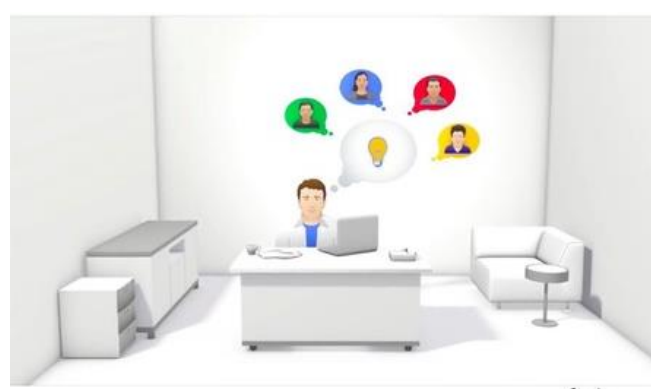**Print literacy**
Texting literacy
Hypertext literacy
Gaming literacy
Code literacy

Focus on (re-) design | Focus on language

Focus on information | Focus on connections

Image source: Wikimedia Commons, Wikipedia.org

What are digital literacies?

Focus on (re-) design

Focus on language

Focus on information
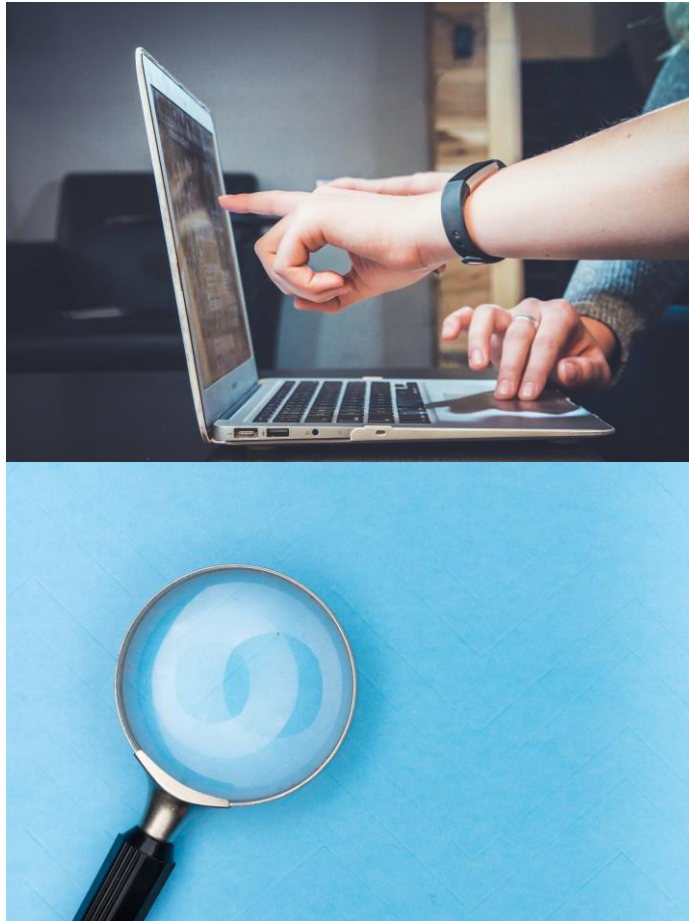
Focus on connections

Personal literacy
Participatory literacy
Network literacy
Intercultural literacy

Image source:Wikimedia
Creative Commons
Marvin Mayer on Unsplash

What are digital literacies?

Search literacy
Information literacy
Filtering literacy
Tagging literacy

Focus on (re-)design	Focus on language
Focus on information	Focus on connections

Image Source: *Markus Winkler on Unsplash*

What are digital literacies?

Remix literacy

Focus on (re-)design	Focus on Language
Focus on information	Focus on connections

What are digital literacies?

Remix literacy

Search literacy
Information literacy
Tagging literacy

Focus on (re)design

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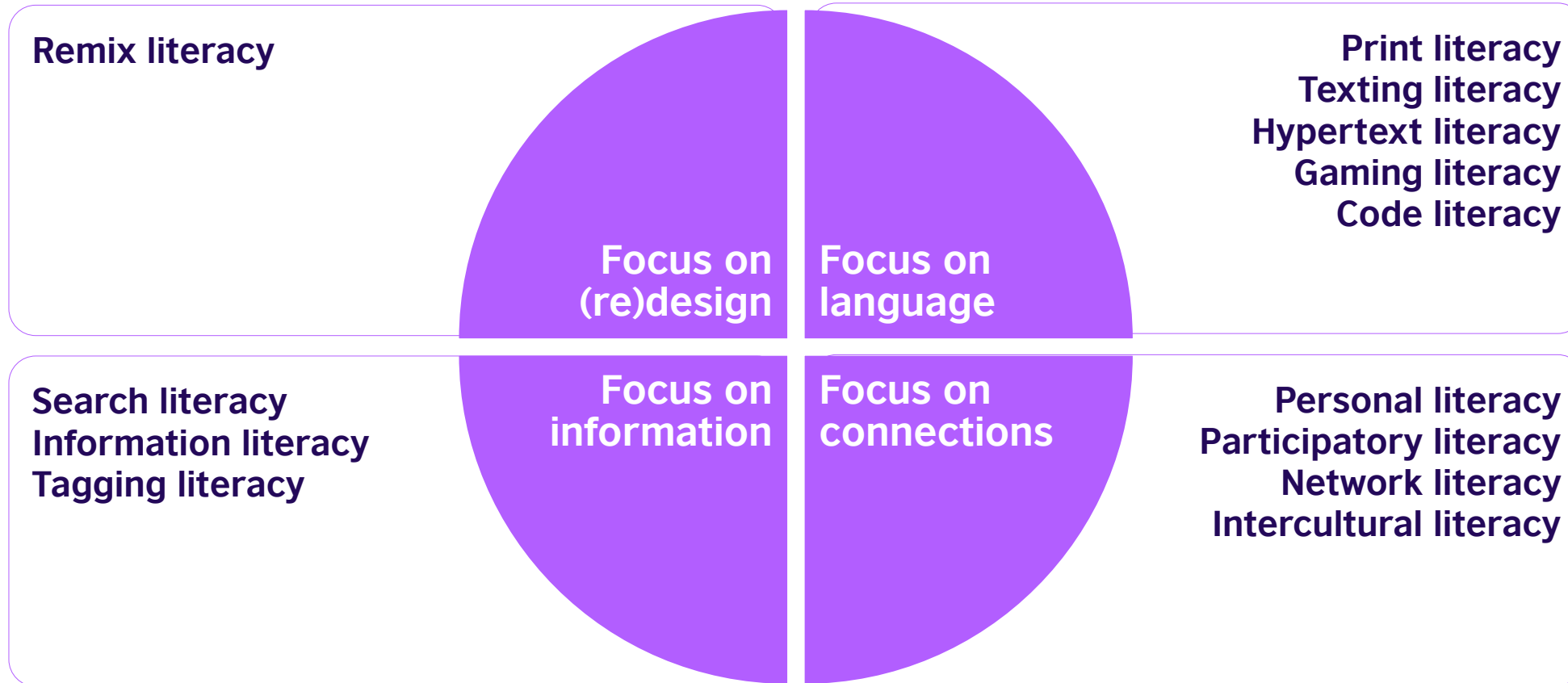
Why should you include digital literacies in the classroom?

- **Literacy extends beyond the language classroom similarly digital literacy needs should not be restricted to the IT class.**

- **Communication is increasingly digitally mediated and as teachers we should promote the skills students need to succeed along with English language skills.**

- **Encourages critical thinking and problem solving.**

- **Students can learn to express themselves beyond the classroom.**

Digital literacies are the essential skills our students need to acquire for full participation in the world beyond the classroom, but they can also enrich our students learning inside the classroom.

Mark Pegrum

Source:First steps into ... Digital Literacy | Article | Onestopenglish

Activities for digital literacies

Have you heard of the Tree Octopus?

To find more, check this link:
https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/

Skim through the site and share two facts about
- its habitat
- its characteristics

Read and share two facts about:

- its habitat
- its characteristics

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS

The Pacific Northwest tree octopus (*Octopus paxarbolis*) can be found in the **temperate rainforests** of the Olympic Peninsula on the west coast of North America. Their habitat lies on the Eastern side of the Olympic mountain range, adjacent to Hood Canal. These solitary cephalopods reach an average size (measured from arm-tip to mantle-tip,) of 30-33 cm. Unlike most other cephalopods, tree octopuses are amphibious, spending only their early life and the period of their mating season in their ancestral aquatic environment. Because of the moistness of the rainforests and specialized skin adaptations, they are able to keep from becoming desiccated for prolonged periods of time, but given the chance they would prefer resting in pooled water.

An intelligent and inquisitive being (it has the largest brain-to-body ratio for any mollusk), the tree octopus explores its arboreal world by both touch and sight. Adaptations its ancestors originally evolved in the three dimensional environment of the sea have been put to good use in the spatially complex maze of the **coniferous Olympic rainforests**. The challenges and richness of this environment (and the intimate way in which it interacts with it,) may account for the tree octopus's advanced behavioral development. (Some evolutionary theorists suppose that "arboreal adaptation" is what laid the groundwork in primates for the evolution of the human mind.)

Rare photo of the elusive tree octopus (Enhanced from cropped telephoto)

About | HELP! | FAQs | Sightings | Media | Activities | Links

Evaluating information online

What makes the website look authentic?

- Source of the information - uses a .net URL

- Lots of content with hyperlinks

- Use of images

- Links with the creator's profile and email ID

How do we know it isn't?

- The URL is suspicious

- The content is not credible

- Images are photoshopped

- No 'About Us' section

- The creator's profile is suspicious!

Evaluating information online

Where does the information come from?

When was it posted online?

Who created the information?

What does the website look like?

How do we verify the content?

Suggested activity

Stage 1: brief discussion on news and fake news

Stage 2: read two webpages and find specific information on characteristics, habitat, history

https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/octopus-tree-of-oregon

https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/

Stage 3: Teacher explains one of the two websites is a fake! Encourages student groups to use the five questions to check validity

Stage 4: student groups present findings

Source:
https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/fake-news

Octopus Tree of Oregon
Tillamook, Oregon
No one knows how this Pacific Northwest spruce tree came to have so many trunks.

BEEN HERE?
501

Help Save The ENDANGERED
PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS
From EXTINCTION!

About   HELP!   FAQs   Sightings   Media   Activities   Links

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An intelligent and inquisitive being (it has the largest brain-to-body ratio for any mollusk), the tree octopus explores

Activities for digital literacies

What are the language skills that students practice in this lesson?

• **Reading and speaking**

What are the digital literacies that have been integrated in this lesson?

• **Print literacy** (reading and understanding the webpages)

• **Information literacy** (reading the two websites and evaluating which one is authentic)

Is there a focus on 21st century skills?

• **Yes, communication and collaboration and critical thinking skills**

Tips for successful integration of digital literacies

- **Need for variety - incorporating different digital literacies using a range of tools**

- **Regular inclusion of digital literacies throughout a course/syllabus with objectives that are clear to learners**

- **Upskill yourselves**

If you want to keep up, don't try to keep up with the technologies. Keep up with the literacies that the technologies make possible.

Howard Rheingold

Do you teach digital literacies to your students?

Please share your experiences of teaching digital literacies in your English language classroom.

Agree or disagree?

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Additional resources

Understanding digital literacies

- Webinar series by Nicky Hockly https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/nicky-hockly-digital-literacies-part-1, 2, 3

- https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/digital-literacies-what-are-they-why-should-we-care

- https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/gavin-dudeney-digital-literacy-primer

Activities using digital literacies

- https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/david-petrie/david-petrie-clickbait-memes-sharing-truth-%E2%80%93-activities-digital-literacies

- https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/fake-news

Thank you ☺