

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Practice

1  **01** Listen to the extracts and decide if they contain a reason (R) or an example (E).

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____
- e _____
- f _____
- g _____

2 Read the transcript of  **01** and underline the phrases used to introduce the reasons and examples.

Transcript

- a Well, I usually fly because it's the quickest and the cheapest way to get somewhere.
- b The reason for this huge movement of people is simple. It's a tradition for Chinese people to spend New Year with their families.
- c First, there is the frontal lobe, which deals with high-level thinking – intellectual actions like problem-solving, for example.
- d For me, I stay with a local family. You can learn about their lives, and they will get some money.
- e The cerebellum is in charge of movement, which covers things like physical actions, balance and posture, and so on.
- f In developed countries, such as those in Western Europe, the majority of urbanization has already happened.
- g Because our customers call from around the world, I sometimes work night shifts.

3 Use the transcript from Exercise 2 to make notes. Use abbreviations and symbols if you can. The first one has been done as an example.

- a fly → quick + cheap
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____
- e _____
- f _____
- g _____

TIP

The reason can be introduced *before* the fact instead of after it – see the example below. If the reason comes first, you can sometimes be confused about what is the cause and what is the result.

Because our customers call from around the world, I sometimes work night shifts.

reason

fact

I sometimes work night shifts because our customers call from around the world.

fact

reason

4  Compare your notes with a partner. How are they similar or different?

5  **02** Listen to a presentation about fake news and make notes. Focus on the reasons and examples.



6  Compare your notes with a partner.

7 Use your notes to answer the questions.

a What are the two main reasons for fake news?

b What examples does the speaker give for each reason?

- c** Why do we believe fake news? Give two reasons.

- d** What example is given for one of the reasons in c?

Reflect

- 8** Read the transcript of **02**. Then compare it with your notes from Exercise 5.

Check:

- Did you write down all the most important ideas?
- Did you write down any irrelevant information?
- Did you use abbreviations?
- Did you use symbols to express the relations between ideas?

Transcript

One of the earliest examples of the phenomenon dates back 2,000 years, to Ancient Rome. There was a power struggle between two men, Octavian and Marc Antony. To win the support of the people, and discredit his rival, Octavian made up nasty and untrue rumours about Marc Antony, and had the messages engraved onto coins. Outrageous!

Another famous example of fake news from history is the Great Moon Hoax. In August 1835, a New York newspaper called the *Sun* published six articles claiming there was life on the Moon. They told their excited readers about how scientists had used a special telescope and seen trees, oceans and beaches on the Moon. They even printed this drawing to illustrate the findings. Many people were fooled, and it wasn't until weeks later that the story was revealed as untrue.

These stories represent the two main reasons for fake news: (1) to influence public opinion, and (2) to increase readership. Octavian put his words onto coins to persuade people that his rival was a bad man. Not unlike a politician tweeting about his rivals today! And the *Sun* ran their Moon story because it wanted to increase circulation of the newspaper. The modern equivalent might be websites that post misleading headlines or farfetched stories to maximize the number of hits. We call such stories 'clickbait'.

The following quote is often attributed to Winston Churchill: 'A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.' But why do untrue stories seem to be so readily believed and shared? Put simply, it's because people want to believe them. Sometimes, this is because it's just a great story.

But another reason why we believe certain untrue stories is because they help to confirm our worldview – that is, the way we think the world works. For example, if you think rich people are mean and greedy, you are likely to believe a story about a successful businessman defrauding the public or avoiding taxes. And you may well share the story online without ever checking its validity.