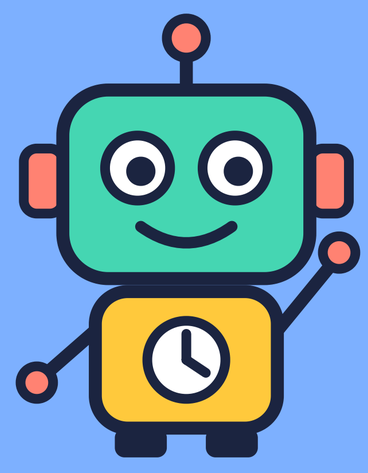
CRITICAL THINKING

Heard a claim? Think twice.



Critical thinking means asking good questions before you believe something. These eight skills help you work out what is true.

1 Fact or opinion?

CLAIM

A fact can be checked. An opinion is what someone thinks.

ASK YOURSELF

Could I check this?

FACT
"A spider has eight legs."

OPINION
"Spiders are scary."

2 Who says so?

SOURCE

Ask who made it, what they know and why they made it.

ASK YOURSELF

Who made this, and why?

Who? · Know-how?
Why? · When?

Sellers may stretch the truth.

3 Where's the proof?

EVIDENCE

Strong claims need strong evidence.

ASK YOURSELF

How strong is the evidence?

1 Rumour
2 One story
3 Several examples
4 Fair test or lots of data

4 Does it follow?

REASON

Check that the reason really leads to the claim.

ASK YOURSELF

Could something else explain it?

Ice cream up. Sunburn up.
Hidden cause: a hot, sunny day.

Together is not the same as caused.

5 Spot the trick

PERSUADE

Ads use tricks to rush or impress you.

ASK YOURSELF

What do they want me to do?

Everybody's doing it
Famous face
Hurry, hurry!
Empty numbers
Big promise

6 See both sides

POINT OF VIEW

Look at it from more than one point of view.

ASK YOURSELF

How would someone else see this?

STUDENT
"More time to play!"

TEACHER
"Home time gets later."

7 Real or fake?

VERIFY

Check before you believe or share.

ASK YOURSELF

Have I checked before I share?

1 Stop
2 Look closer
3 Check elsewhere
4 Ask someone

8 Change your mind

OPEN-MINDED

New evidence? Update what you think.

ASK YOURSELF

What would change my mind?

I used to think…
Now I think…

New evidence? Update.