

Breaking News: poll shows most Americans cannot tell *The Onion* fake news items from *New York Times* news items.

In a Reuters poll from October, it was found that fully 90% of Americans could not tell the difference between joke news items from *The Onion* and real news items. When the tag “The Onion” was removed from joke news items and then these items were shuffled with real new items from mainstream sources like the *New York Times*, The Associated Press, Reuters, *Salon*, and the *Huffington Post*, 91.4% of respondents could not tell the difference. Using follow up questions, it was discovered that 86.7% of respondents didn't realize *The Onion* was fake news to start with, and 86.1% refused to believe it even after being told. The survey was 10,000 with a margin of error of $\pm 2\%$.

In related news, a separate poll from *USA Today* failed to discover even one respondent who realized that all so-called real news was also fake. 100% of those polled did not understand that the same people who write for *The Onion* also write for the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, TIME magazine, *Huffington Post*, CNN, FOXnews, MSNBC, and all other known news sources. These writers are in adjoining cubicles in Langley, Virginia, where they also write speeches for President Obama, prepare television scripts for all known programs, write the scripts for all movies, write all the press releases from NASA, write all the songs that are currently allowed to be recorded, write all the advertising jingles, and write the Teleprompter cues for all national, state, and local politicians, including the city council minutes in Yankum, Georgia, population 4.

In related news, these same respondents mistakenly thought the previous paragraph was a joke.

In related news, a separate poll from the *Christian Science Monitor* found that fewer than one in a thousand Americans can read well enough to make sense of an article at *The Onion*, much less to get the joke. Using follow-up questions, it was found that fewer than two in a thousand could make sense of the questions asked them in the poll, with the other 998 respondents simply answering randomly.

In related news, a separate poll from Gallup found that a plurality of respondents could not make heads or tails of common statistics, and could not begin to read a chart. Using follow-up questions, it was found that a plurality did not know what “plurality” meant.

In related news, a survey from Nielsen used data collected from millions of American households over half a century to determine that almost no one can follow the plotlines of any TV programs, including popular sitcoms and reality shows. Using clandestine technology built into all TV sets since the early 1960's, Nielsen was able to make use of retinal scanning devices, emotion response detectors, and brainwave correlators to determine that less than five percent of the population had any idea what Elizabeth Montgomery, Alan Alda, Mary Tyler Moore, Bill Cosby, Ted Danson, Rosanne Barr, or Simon Cowell were saying. The other 95% were just nodding along, so as not to look stupid.

In related news, a survey of audiences by HBO determined that most of those who came to comedy shows did so only to get out of the house, and that very few could tell one comic from another. Discouraged by this data, HBO ran a series of follow-up tests, in which large audiences who came to see George Carlin or Louis CK were instead treated to a two-hour show by an unknown man, consisting of random talking, with “comedic” cadence, pauses, and shouting. These audiences laughed uncontrollably at each pause, on cue. Interestingly, this is how Dane Cook was discovered.

In related news, a survey by Harvard University School of Sociology of graduate students in various disciplines found that every single student surveyed was too intimidated to ask questions during class, preferring instead to memorize everything they were told so that they could get their diploma as quickly and painlessly as possible. Discouraged by this finding, Harvard SoS ran follow-up tests, in which students were enrolled in fake courses and taught absurd things that could not possibly be true. Unfortunately, these classes proved to be very popular, and the universities found it most efficient to simply add them to the roster permanently.

In related news, Google tracked down 100,000 people who had complained of a “bloated government bureaucracy” in online forums, article responses, emails, or tapped phonecalls and offered them a job with the NSA, with full benefits. 94,592 of them took it. The other 5,408 were found to be already working for the government.