

## 3.5

# The media



## The mass media today

- What are the pros and cons of the internet in global society?
- What is fake news and why is it so dangerous?

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### BENEFITS OF THE INTERNET

- instant communication
- availability of information
- support and friendship in online communities
- working life is made easier
- role of bloggers
- social media can start a revolution
- governments cannot hide the truth when it can be posted online

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### DANGERS OF THE INTERNET

- anonymity
- security issues
- danger of believing everything one reads online → fake news or incorrect advice
- censorship by certain governments
- cyberbullying

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### THE DANGERS OF FAKE NEWS

- ruins reputations; spreads conspiracy theories and propaganda
- plays on fears and anxieties
- undermines democracy
- spreads extremist content
- creates a lack of trust

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### THREATS TO THE FREE PRESS

- repressive regimes fear revelation of the truth through the free press
- control of the press as a means to control citizens and spread propaganda
- news content is censored; journalists threatened or even imprisoned
- keeping citizens in ignorance of events in the wider world

### IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

censorship	Zensur
cyberbullying	Cybermobbing
fake news	Falschmeldung; Falschnachricht
to mislead	jemanden irreführen

to pick on someone	jemanden hänseln
repressive	unterdrückend
to suppress	unterdrücken
to undermine	untergraben