NEWS LESSON

A Video of You That Never Happened



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would you recognise a convincing fake video of yourself?
2. When is copying someone's voice funny, and when does it go too far?
3. Would you trust a surprising video before checking where it came from?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**deepfake**	☐	A	to make someone believe something that is not true
2	**deceive**	☐	B	a fake video or sound made with AI that looks or sounds real
3	**embarrass**	☐	C	copies of something real
4	**genuine**	☐	D	real, not fake
5	**celebrities**	☐	E	to make someone feel shy or silly in front of other people
6	**spread**	☐	F	to move to many people or places
7	**complicated**	☐	G	not simple, with many parts to think about
8	**imitations**	☐	H	very famous people

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

AI can copy a face and a voice in minutes. In October 2026, Denmark announced plans for a law to protect people.

1 Imagine opening your phone and watching a video of yourself saying something terrible. You know you never said it, and the video was never recorded. Someone has used artificial intelligence to make up a fake version of your face and your voice. What could you do about it?

2 This kind of video is called a deepfake. AI can now create realistic pictures, sound recordings and moving images in a few minutes. Some are made for jokes or films, but others are used to embarrass, deceive or hurt people. The real problem is that ordinary viewers cannot always tell the difference between a fake and a genuine recording.

3 In October 2026, Denmark announced plans for a law to protect people against certain AI copies of their appearance and voice. The proposal would make it easier to challenge the unauthorised sharing of realistic digital imitations, in other words copies that were shared without permission. It was a proposed law, not something that had already solved the problem.

4 Supporters say people should be able to control how others use their faces. A fake video can damage somebody's reputation, get them into trouble at work or make friends and family believe something untrue. Ordinary people may be affected too, not only celebrities and politicians, and most of them have no lawyers to fall back on. Once a fake video has spread, it is also very hard to take it down again.

5 However, the issue is complicated. Films, jokes and political cartoons have always copied famous people, and that is part of free speech. It is important to protect artistic freedom and public discussion while stopping harmful fakes. Laws also have to work when a video is made in one country and shared in another, which is not easy to arrange.

6 The internet made it easy to copy photographs. AI now makes it possible to invent actions and speech as well, so a picture is no longer proof that something happened. Denmark's proposal asks a simple but very difficult question: if somebody can create a convincing digital version of you, who should decide what that version is allowed to do?

Sources: Reuters. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Denmark has proposed a law about AI copies of people's faces and voices. T F NG
2. Some deepfakes are made for fun or for films. T F NG
3. Other countries have copied the Danish proposal. T F NG
4. The Danish law had already solved the problem. T F NG
5. Only famous people can be harmed by fake videos. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

appearance	freedom	permission	proof	proposal	reputation	trouble

1. You need a person's _____ before you share a video of them.
2. A false story can destroy the _____ that a person has built over many years.
3. A photo is no longer _____ that something really happened.
4. The government will discuss the _____ next month before it decides.
5. Her _____ changed so much with the new hairstyle that friends did not recognise her.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Imagine _____ a video of yourself saying something terrible. (WATCH)
2. Last week, a man _____ a fake video of his boss. (MAKE)
3. In October 2026, Denmark _____ plans for a new law. (ANNOUNCE)
4. It was a proposed law, not something that had already _____ the problem. (SOLVE)
5. Laws also have to work when a video _____ in one country and shared in another. (MAKE)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Some words always take the same small word after them. Learn the pair together, for example reaction to, afraid of.

between by for of on to with

1. There is a big difference _____ a joke and a harmful fake.
2. Many teenagers are afraid _____ fake videos of themselves.
3. People cannot always rely _____ their eyes to spot a fake.
4. Denmark announced plans _____ a new law.
5. Viewers should pay attention _____ where a video came from.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Who should have to remove a fake: the person posting it or the platform?
2. Would a clear AI label make every fake video acceptable?
3. What would help ordinary people challenge a fake about them?

9 Role-play: a fake video of me

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the person in the video

A friend made a joke video of you using AI. Your voice and face look real and people have started sharing it. Ask the website manager to remove it today. Explain why it matters to you.

Student B · the website manager

You run a video website. The video may be a joke, and you don't want to limit free speech. Ask at least two questions. You can remove it, keep it, or add a clear label.

Useful phrases

I'd like you to remove this video today.
I never said that, and I didn't agree to it.
It's a joke, so is it really harmful?
Who made it, and did you give permission?
We could add a label saying it's AI.
I'm afraid I can't promise that, but I'll look into it.

Afterwards, tell the class: was the video removed, and was that a fair decision?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 B · 2 A · 3 E · 4 D · 5 H · 6 F · 7 G · 8 C

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 T · 3 NG · 4 F · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 permission · 2 reputation · 3 proof · 4 proposal · 5 appearance

6 Verb forms

1 watching · 2 made · 3 announced · 4 solved · 5 is made

7 Language focus

1 between · 2 of · 3 on · 4 for · 5 to

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