

DETERMINING AUTHENTICITY

There are multiple ways to determine the authenticity of a Pokémon card. Most fake Pokémon cards have eye-catching mistakes that quickly separate them from genuine cards. For simple comparisons, keeping a few genuine cards available is useful.

No method for identifying a fake Pokémon card is 100% certain – except for the Rip Test (more on this later). Use a combination of methods when evaluating a card's authenticity.

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

Fake cards commonly include spelling mistakes and grammatical errors, such as misspelling a Pokémon's name or spelling Pokémon without an accent over the e.

Be aware, some Pokémon cards include misspellings or grammatical mistakes due to printing issues. These are commonly referred to as “error cards.”



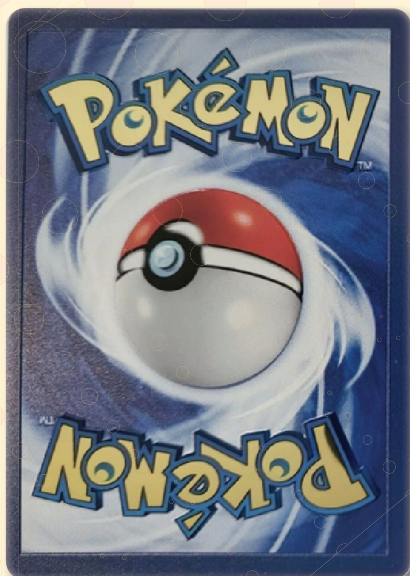
CARD MATERIAL AND QUALITY

Metal Cards

The face of metal cards are textured with a blue and yellow back. As of this book's publication, only four (4) official metal Pokémon cards have been distributed by The Pokémon Company: a Base set Charizard replica, a Base set Pikachu replica, a Brilliant Stars Arceus **V** replica and a Brilliant Stars Arceus **VSTAR** replica.



Pikachu – 58/102
Front



Pikachu – 58/102
Back

Card Materials

Because fake cards are often made with lighter materials, they often feel lighter and more flimsy than genuine cards. In comparison, genuine Pokémon cards will feel slightly heavier.

The surface of genuine cards have a subtle feel, while fake cards are unusually smooth.

CARD CHARACTERISTICS

Health Points/Damage

Fake cards sometimes use unrealistic health points or damage amounts. At the time of this publication, genuine Pokémon cards do not have more than 340HP and shouldn't deal more than 300 damage in a single attack.



FAKE

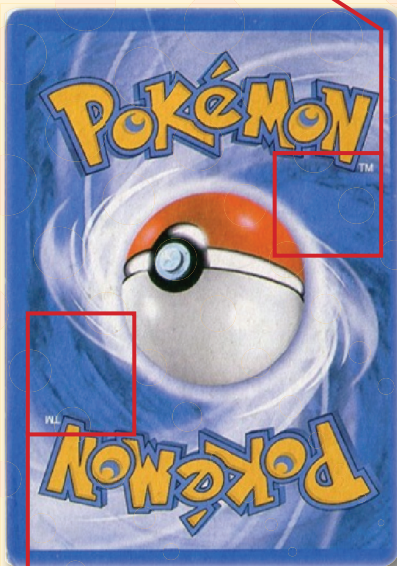


GENUINE

This holographic card belongs to Base Set (part of the Original Series). However, the fake card does not have a holographic effect. The attack cost for Jab on the fake card requires five fighting energies. However, the genuine card's attack cost for Jab is one fighting energy. The attack damage amount is also quite a bit higher on the fake card.

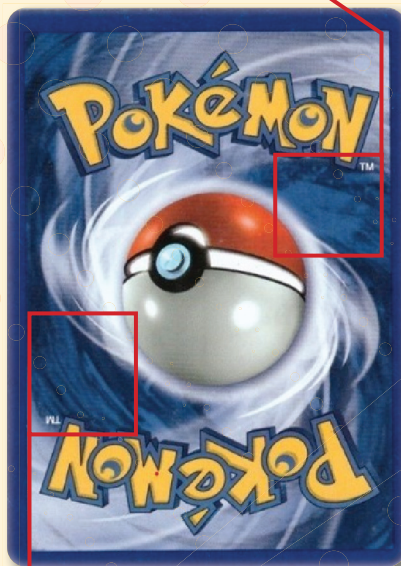
Card Back

When compared with genuine cards, the back of fake cards will have different colors (often a lighter shade of blue). For instance, on fake cards, the top right and bottom left of the Pokéball are often filled solid with blue. However, genuine cards feature a pattern of light blue with spots of darker blue.



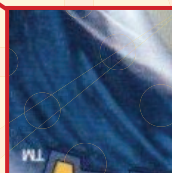
FAKE

Solid blue



GENUINE

Splashes of dark blue

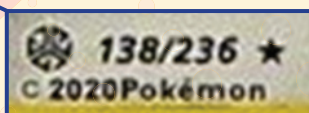


Copyright

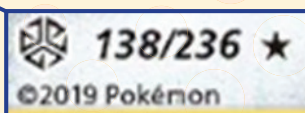
Fake cards often use an incorrect copyright symbol. The correct symbol is the letter c encircled (©).



FAKE



GENUINE



This card belongs to the Cosmic Eclipse set (Sun & Moon Series), released in November 2019. The fake card's copyright date is incorrect, listing 2020 instead of 2019. The space after the copyright year is also missing.