

# AP

## AP FACT CHECK: Hillary Clinton's new email clarifications

By [STEPHEN BRAUN](#)

Aug. 5, 2016 8:05 PM EDT



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at the 2016 National Association of Black...  
[Read more](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton asserted Friday that FBI Director James Comey said she was truthful in her statements to investigators about her private server and use of private emails — and that those statements were consistent with what she has said publicly.

Comey has described Clinton's interview with investigators looking into her email use at the State Department, taking care in testimony before Congress to say that investigators had "no

basis to conclude she lied to the FBI." But he has also questioned the accuracy of some of the public statements she's made about the issue.

The Democratic presidential nominee was asked about emails Friday during an appearance at a joint session of associations of black and Hispanic journalists in Washington. In answering, Clinton sought to defuse a controversy over recent remarks in which she cited Comey's testimony to demonstrate she was truthful about her private email use and had not put at risk classified information in the messages she sent and received.

Clinton's comments about her email use have shifted over time. When she first acknowledged the use of private emails in March 2015, Clinton said: "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email. There is no classified material."

She later shifted her explanation to say she never sent or received "any emails marked classified at the time."

In July, Comey said FBI investigators found that 113 emails from Clinton's server contained classified information that had been secret at the time it was sent or received. Many more emails contained sensitive information, but were marked classified only later.

On "Fox News Sunday" last weekend, Clinton said, "Director Comey said my answers were truthful and what I've said is consistent with what I have told the American people."

But when Comey told Congress he had "no basis for concluding that she was untruthful with us," he was speaking only of her interview with agents. He did tell Congress that her public statement about classified material was "not true."

On Friday, Clinton said she wanted to clarify her recent remarks and acknowledged she had "short-circuited" what she intended to say in the interview with "Fox News Sunday."

A look at what she had to say:

—

CLINTON: "I have said during the interview and in many other occasions over the past months that what I told the FBI, which he said was truthful, is consistent with what I have said publicly."

THE FACTS: Comey has declined to say precisely what Clinton told FBI investigators, but he has never directly called Clinton's comments truthful. He said that "we have no basis to conclude that she lied to the FBI" and that "I have no basis for concluding that she was untruthful with us" — both legally calibrated statements that explained only that investigators did not find any evidence that she was lying to them.

When Comey was asked during a congressional hearing about whether Clinton lied to the public, Comey begged off, saying: "That's a question I'm not qualified to answer. I can speak only about what she said to the FBI."

---

CLINTON: "And so what we have here is pretty much what I have been saying throughout this whole year and that is that I never sent or received anything that was marked classified."

THE FACTS: At the July House hearing, Comey was asked about Clinton's public statements that there was "nothing marked classified" in the private emails she sent or received. Comey replied, "That's not true," and added, "There was classified material emailed."

In the hearing last month, Comey said three marked emails had a "C" mark at the time they were sent or received by Clinton, which would have indicated their classified nature. He also said other emails deleted from Clinton's server also probably had classified markings at the time.

Clinton said Friday that the three emails cited by Comey "did not have the appropriate markings" and as a result, "it was therefore reasonable to conclude that anyone, including myself, would not have suspected that they were classified."

Clinton seized on a later State Department statement that in two of the emails, the agency found that the classification markings made at the time had been made in error. And she said Comey's own statements during the July hearing showed "there was absolutely no intention on my part to either ignore or in any way dismiss the importance of those documents."

But Comey's statement last month was not so assertive.

Comey said that it was "possible that she didn't understand what a 'C' meant when she saw it in the body of the email like that."

Overall, he described her handling of "very sensitive, highly classified information" as "extremely careless."

EDITOR'S NOTE \_ A look at the veracity of claims by political figures

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae7656186b9745578a217f427cdc64cf>