



# Newspapers


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**Key**

 = BSL video

 = Text (which can be viewed separately in a .pdf file and downloaded)

 = Comprehension Exercise

| Formats   | Texts                           |
|---|---------------------------------|
|    | 1. Different types of newspaper |
|   | 2. Newspaper layout             |
|   | 3. Reading                      |
|   | 4. Fact and opinion             |

| Formats  | Grammar and Punctuation          |
|--|----------------------------------|
|  | 5. Past Simple – irregular verbs |

| Exercises |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 1.2       | Broadsheet, tabloid or local ? |
| 4.2       | Fact or opinion                |
| 5.1       | Irregular verbs 1              |
| 5.2       | Irregular verbs 2              |

| Vocabulary       |
|------------------|
| News story words |

## 1. Different types of newspaper

There are several types of newspaper in the UK:

Broadsheets (generally larger in size) – these newspapers are more 'formal' and focus on 'serious' news stories from the UK and the rest of the world. They are often called the 'quality press'.

For example, The Guardian, The Independent.

Tabloids – (generally smaller in size) – these newspapers focus more on celebrity coverage and sensational stories. They are often called the 'popular press' but are sometimes referred to as the 'gutter press'.

For example, The Sun, The Mirror.

Local newspapers – generally these are also smaller in size and focus on issues in specific towns or cities.

For example, The Bristol Post, The Sunderland Echo.

A newspaper contains articles. This lesson focuses on articles that tell the reader about something that has happened. These are called news stories.

### 1.1 Comprehension exercise

Type: True or False

Questions

1. Broadsheets are generally smaller in size. **(False)**
2. Tabloids focus on celebrity coverage and sensational stories. **(True)**
3. Local papers focus on world events. **(False)**
4. Tabloids are sometimes referred to as the 'gutter press'. **(True)**
5. A newspaper contains articles. **(True)**

## 1.2 Broadsheet, tabloid or local ?

Type: Drop down menu..or check box.

Instructions: Read the headlines and guess which type of newspaper they come from.

1. Lottery winner who split from wife after £148m jackpot win, spends it all on shoes.

**(Answer: Tabloid)**

2. East Sussex: Woman head-butted by cow. **(Answer: Local)**

3. Who's got the X factor? Polls suggest Labour leader is the best dressed MP.

**(Answer: Tabloid)**

4. General Election 2015: Union bosses tell Ed Miliband to offer Lib Dems electoral reform to shut Tories out. **(Answer: Broadsheet)**

5. Election polling day live: Tories and Labour neck and neck as UK voting starts.

**(Answer: Broadsheet)**

6. Cheeky seagull nabs crisps on Palace Pier. (Answer: Local)

7. The obesity crisis affects the whole of Europe... apart from France. **(Answer:**

**Broadsheet)**

8. Freddie Starr ate my hamster. **(Answer: Tabloid)**

9. Kitten chokes on mouse in St Andrews Park. **(Answer: Local)**

10. Man fries eggs on his bald head. **(Answer: Tabloid)**

## 2. Newspaper layout

When you read a news story the first thing you see is the headline. The headline tells you briefly what the news story is about. It is not always written in full sentences and uses language that will make the reader interested.

Next comes the first section and it is usually a couple of sentences that summarise the most important information of the news story.

When the news story is long, there may be subheadings (titles for different sections of the news story).

Many news stories have pictures and the name beneath a picture indicates the photographer's name.

A news story tells the reader about something that happened so it is written in the past tense.

A news story usually, but not always, answers all these questions: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW but not always in the same order.

The text is often in columns.

The sentences are often short and to the point.

The Internet has changed the way we access the news. In the past the news was printed on paper but today we can also read them on a computer screen. Newspapers on websites look different from paper versions.

### 2.1 Comprehension exercise

Type: True or False  
Questions

1. Headlines are always written in full sentences. **(False)**
2. The first section summarises the most important information. **(True)**
3. News stories sometimes have sub-headings. **(True)**
4. News stories are written using the 'past tense'. **(True)**
5. Newspapers on the Internet look the same as paper versions. **(False)**

### 3. Reading

When reading a news story, read slowly and pay attention to all the words. If you miss a word or a phrase it will change the meaning of a sentence.

For example, a news story may say:

'She was not happy'.

If you read too fast and miss the word 'not' the meaning of the sentence changes. You will understand that she was happy when in fact she was not. Take your time when reading.

You must also think about what something might mean. For example, a news story may say:

“Rush hour was over. It was getting dark.”

This sentence means that it is evening time even though the word 'evening' is not written. We know this because it says 'It was getting dark'.

#### 3.1 Comprehension exercise

Type: True or False  
Questions

1. A single word can change the meaning of a sentence. **(True)**
2. Read slowly and there is less chance of making a mistake. **(True)**
3. Rush hour only happens once a day. **(False)**
4. If 'rush hour is over' and it is 'getting dark', it must be morning. **(False)**
5. If 'rush hour is over' and it is 'getting dark', it must be evening. **(True)**

## 4. Fact and opinion

When you read a news story it is important to recognise what is a fact and what is an opinion.

Journalists often mix FACTS and OPINIONS and sometimes it can be hard to tell which is which.

A FACT is something that is true and for which there is proof, for example:

Snow is cold.

We know it is true as we can touch it and feel the cold; science also shows us that its temperature is low. Just because you may think something is true does not mean that it is – there needs to be proof.

An OPINION is something that the writer believes, for example:

Snow is beautiful.

You may agree or disagree with this sentence. If you like snow then you will agree. If you do not like snow you will disagree.

Sometimes the language used in a news story tells you very clearly if it is a fact or an opinion. Here are some examples:

### Fact

- \* The review showed that...
- \* According to the results of the latest survey...
- \* Researchers have discovered that...

These examples indicate reliable sources of information that can be checked.....a review, a survey and researchers' discoveries.

### Opinion

- \* The company claims that...
- \* The manager believes that...
- \* Most experts think that...

These examples indicate that these are the opinions of the company, the manager and most experts.

The verbs 'claims', 'believes' and 'think' all show that these are opinions.



## 4.1 Comprehension exercise

Type: True or False

Questions

1. It is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between an opinion and a fact. **(True)**
2. A fact is something for which there is proof. **(True)**
3. If someone 'claims' or 'believes' something is true, then this is an opinion. **(True)**
4. Journalists never mix opinions and facts. **(False)**
5. Snow is cold. This is an opinion. **(False)**

## 4.2 Fact or opinion ?

Type: Drop down menu..or check box.

Instructions: Read the following and decide whether the statements are facts or opinions.

1. The sun is 93 million miles from the Earth. **(Fact)**
2. Cars run on petrol, diesel or electricity. **(Fact)**
3. Everybody in the UK understands English. **(Opinion)**
4. David Beckham is the best football player in Britain. **(Opinion)**
5. Government statistics show that 1 in 5 people in the UK are aged under 16. **(Fact)**
6. All children should be taught computer skills. **(Opinion)**
7. Cats are not as friendly as dogs. **(Opinion)**
8. Technology is making life easier. **(Opinion)**
9. Everybody needs food and drink to survive. **(Fact)**
10. Paris is the capital of France. **(Fact)**

## Grammar and punctuation

### 5. Past Simple - irregular verbs

Some verbs do not follow the adding 'ed' rule. They are called 'irregular' verbs. To put them in the Past Simple, we change the spelling.

For example:

\* buy – bought

\* write – wrote

The spelling can only be learnt by memorising each verb individually, generally this will happen through usage. Here is a list of the fifty most commonly used irregular verbs:

| Verb   | Past Simple |
|--------|-------------|
| say    | said        |
| make   | made        |
| go     | went        |
| take   | took        |
| come   | came        |
| see    | saw         |
| know   | knew        |
| go     | went        |
| get    | got         |
| give   | gave        |
| find   | found       |
| think  | thought     |
| tell   | told        |
| become | became      |
| show   | showed      |
| leave  | left        |
| feel   | felt        |
| put    | put         |

| <b>Verb</b>       | <b>Past Simple</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>bring</b>      | <b>brought</b>     |
| <b>begin</b>      | <b>began</b>       |
| <b>keep</b>       | <b>kept</b>        |
| <b>hold</b>       | <b>held</b>        |
| <b>write</b>      | <b>wrote</b>       |
| <b>stand</b>      | <b>stood</b>       |
| <b>hear</b>       | <b>heard</b>       |
| <b>let</b>        | <b>let</b>         |
| <b>mean</b>       | <b>meant</b>       |
| <b>set</b>        | <b>set</b>         |
| <b>meet</b>       | <b>met</b>         |
| <b>run</b>        | <b>ran</b>         |
| <b>pay</b>        | <b>paid</b>        |
| <b>sit</b>        | <b>sat</b>         |
| <b>speak</b>      | <b>spoke</b>       |
| <b>lie</b>        | <b>lay</b>         |
| <b>lead</b>       | <b>led</b>         |
| <b>read</b>       | <b>read</b>        |
| <b>grow</b>       | <b>grew</b>        |
| <b>lose</b>       | <b>lost</b>        |
| <b>fall</b>       | <b>fell</b>        |
| <b>send</b>       | <b>sent</b>        |
| <b>build</b>      | <b>built</b>       |
| <b>understand</b> | <b>understood</b>  |
| <b>draw</b>       | <b>drew</b>        |
| <b>break</b>      | <b>broke</b>       |
| <b>spend</b>      | <b>spent</b>       |
| <b>cut</b>        | <b>cut</b>         |

| Verb   | Past Simple |
|--------|-------------|
| rise   | rose        |
| drive  | drove       |
| buy    | bought      |
| wear   | wore        |
| choose | chose       |

### 5.1 Past Simple - irregular verbs exercise 1

Type: Text insert

Instructions: Put these irregular verbs in the Past Simple.

Example:

write - wrote

1. say - \_\_\_\_\_ (said)
2. make - \_\_\_\_\_ (made)
3. go - \_\_\_\_\_ (went)
4. take - \_\_\_\_\_ (took)
5. come - \_\_\_\_\_ (came)
6. see - \_\_\_\_\_ (saw)
7. know - \_\_\_\_\_ (knew)
8. get - \_\_\_\_\_ (got)
9. give - \_\_\_\_\_ (gave)
10. find - \_\_\_\_\_ (found)

### 5.2 Past Simple - irregular verbs exercise 2

Type: Text insert

Instructions: Put these irregular verbs in the Past Simple.

Example

(buy) Yesterday I **bought** a boat.

1. (see) Last month I \_\_\_\_\_ a job advert in the newspaper. (saw)
2. (send) I \_\_\_\_\_ my CV to the local company. (sent)
3. (give) They \_\_\_\_\_ me an interview. (gave)
4. (go) I \_\_\_\_\_ to the interview by bus. (went)
5. (leave) I \_\_\_\_\_ early so I would not be late. (left)
6. (find) I \_\_\_\_\_ the interview difficult. (found)
7. (feel) I \_\_\_\_\_ very nervous during the interview. (felt)
8. (say) They \_\_\_\_\_ everybody is nervous in interviews. (said)
9. (are) They \_\_\_\_\_ impressed with my skills. (were)
10. (get) I \_\_\_\_\_ the job. (got)