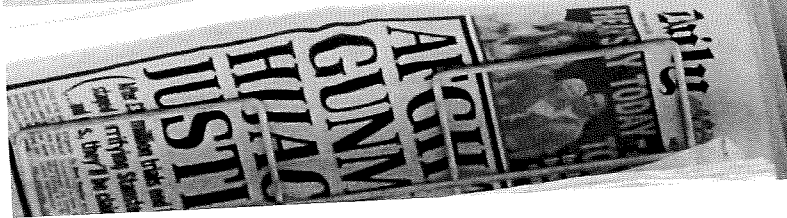


UNIT 1

Newspapers

- Writing headlines
- Analysing newspaper articles
- Practising interview skills
- Planning and writing a newspaper article



Writing headlines

1 a In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- 1 Which newspapers do you read? Why?
- 2 What's the biggest news story in your country at the moment?
- 3 Why are headlines important?
- 4 Do you find it difficult to read headlines in English? Explain why / why not.

b Understanding headlines in a foreign language can be difficult. Look at the headlines in Exercise 1c (1–8) and decide what you think each story is about.

c Now match the headlines (1–8) to their everyday English equivalents (a–h).

1 Paris probe proves palace innocent

2 Love's Labour's Lost

3 Choose That Girl! Madge jets to Africa to adopt girl

4 US cool on climate change

5 Weeping mum damns teenage killer thug

6 Family's pet dog butchered

7 Comedian rapped over slang word by TV watchdog

8 Government to axe 3,500 post offices

- a The government is going to close 3,500 post offices.
- b The US government is not keen on a new environmental policy.
- c A family dog has been brutally killed.
- d An investigation into Princess Diana's death shows the British royal family were not involved.
- e Labour's Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer do not agree on government policies.
- f A popular comedian, who pretends to be a rapper, is in trouble with the Independent Television Commission for using offensive words on TV.
- g The singer Madonna has flown to Africa to adopt a child.
- h A mother refuses to forgive the people who killed her daughter.

d Look at the headlines in Exercise 1c again. Decide which of the following questions can easily be answered by reading them.

- What happened?
- Who did what?
- Where did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- When did it happen?

e In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- 1 Which of the headlines got your interest? Why?
- 2 Which headlines would you put on the front page of a newspaper? Explain your choice(s).
- 3 If you were the editor of a popular daily, which would be your lead story (the most important story of the day)? Explain your choice.
- 4 How do you think the stories continue?

f Look at the headlines in Exercise 1c again and answer the following questions.

- 1 Which of the following kinds of word are omitted from the headlines? articles, auxiliary verbs, main verbs, nouns, pronouns
- 2 Which of the following verb forms are used?
to + infinitive, present simple, past simple, past participle
- 3 Which of the following are used?
abbreviations, commas, full stops, exclamation marks

2 a Look at the following sentences which have been turned into headlines. Make a list of what changes have been made to turn them into headlines.

- 1 Three people have been killed in a terrible shop fire.

Terrible shop fire kills 3

Articles, preposition and one noun have been omitted; passive to active; present perfect to present simple; word to numeral (three/3)

- 2 The Boston Red Sox have humiliated the Toronto Blue Jays, who lost 8-0.

**Boston Red Sox humiliate
Toronto Blue Jays 8-0**

- 3 Police mistakes have led to 183 crimes not being detected.

**Police mistakes:
183 crimes not detected**

- 4 A judge has sentenced a lottery winner to jail for a bank robbery.

Lottery winner jailed for robbery

b In pairs, look at the following sentences and turn them into headlines.

- 1 A very rare breed of bird has returned to the United Kingdom after more than 400 years.
- 2 A drunk driver caused an accident on route 95, which resulted in two people being killed.
- 3 The Australian Prime Minister is going to open a new hospital in Melbourne.

- 3 a Newspapers use several language devices in order to create eye-catching headlines. Complete the following table using more examples from the headlines in Exercise 1c. Some headlines may go in more than one column.

Language device	Example	More examples
Play on words words with more than one meaning	US <u>cool</u> on climate change (cool = not warm; to be cool on = to not be keen on)	Comedian <u>rapped</u> over slay word by TV watchdog (to rap sb = to criticise sb formally to rap = to perform rap)
Cultural references	Love's Labour's Lost (the name of a play by Shakespeare) Paris probe proves palace innocent	
Alliteration the use of the same sound or sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together		
Emphatic language words which have a stronger effect	Weeping mum <u>damns</u> teenage killer thug	

- b In pairs, make a list of any English-language tabloid and broadsheet newspapers you know.

- c The tabloid press sometimes uses words that are not common in everyday English. This is known as *tabloidese*. Match each of the underlined *tabloidese* words in the sentences (1–5) to their meanings (a–e).

1 Guilty pupil <u>yows</u> to return stolen exam papers	a a mistake
2 Husband and wife <u>row</u> keeps neighbours awake	b anger
3 Government <u>blunder</u> : 1 million taxpayers' personal details lost	c to promise
4 Voters' <u>fury</u> at election results	d to question
5 Police <u>quiz</u> man over Greenwood Bank robbery	e an argument

- d In pairs, discuss which language devices have been used in the following headlines and what each story might be about.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Titanic disaster: new cruise ship has no customers | 4 Bomb carnage kills 1 and |
| 2 European Union: to be or not to be? | 5 Space reality show axed |
| 3 Gorgeous George – Clooney conquers Cannes | |

- e In groups, role play an editorial meeting for a national daily newspaper. Discuss and then decide on the following questions.

- What type of newspaper is it: tabloid or broadsheet?
- What are the most important stories of the day (use your answers to Exercise 1a, question 2)?
- What are the headlines going to be for those stories?
- Which headlines will you put on the front page?
- Which will be your lead story?

Analysing newspaper articles

4 a In groups, discuss the following questions.

- 1 How objective are newspapers in your country?
- 2 What do you know about the political slant of newspapers in English-speaking countries?
- 3 Do you think newspapers should be objective? Explain why / why not.
- 4 Which kind of article do you prefer: opinion-based or fact-based?

b In 2005, a shopping centre in Britain decided to ban people from wearing hooded tops (hoodies). In groups, discuss the following questions.

- 1 What do you think was the reason for banning hooded tops?
- 2 How do you think this might have been reported in the press?

c Read the following two headlines from the British national press. In pairs, decide which of the following adjectives best describe the slant each of the articles will have.

liberal emotive conservative reactionary neutral

1

Reclaim our streets: hoodies and baddies

2

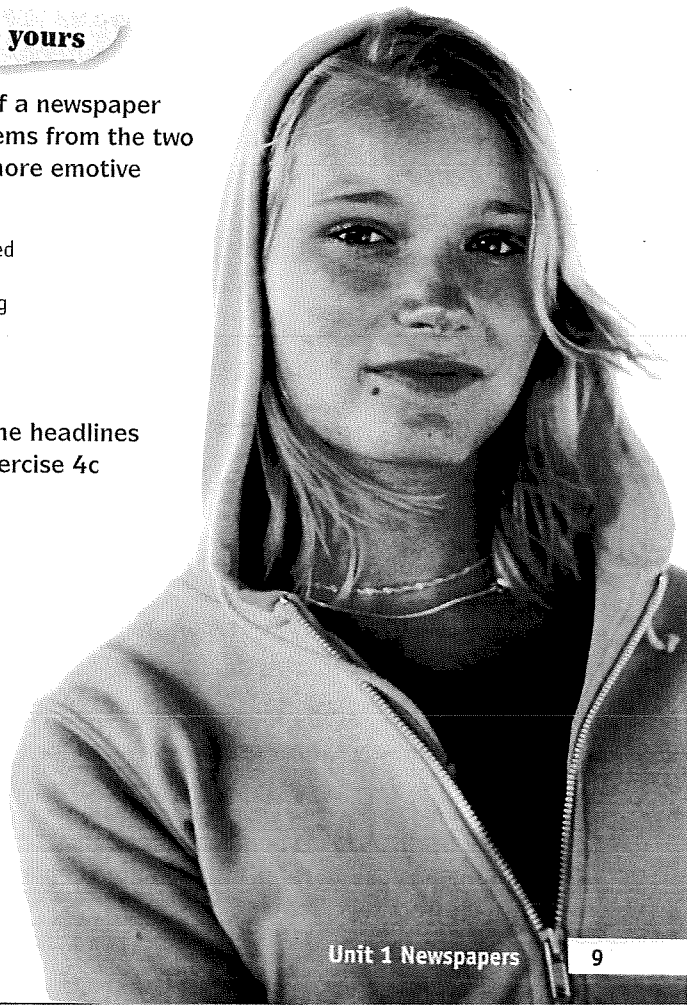
Under that hoodie is a child like yours

d Choice of vocabulary can affect the slant of a newspaper article. Look at the following vocabulary items from the two articles. In pairs, decide which words are more emotive and which are more neutral.

muggers	ban	intimidated
low-level disorder	discrimination	yobs
law-abiding	teenagers	shoplifting
fed up with	crime epidemic	weapon
terrorise	outsider	

e Read the two articles on page 10. Match the headlines to the articles. Were your predictions in Exercise 4c correct?

f Read the first paragraph of the articles again. How do they differ in the way they engage the reader's attention?



slang
og
nally;