

News

Live from London podcasts

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Level: Intermediate +

Age: Teenagers / adults

Time needed: 40–60 minutes

Language and skills: Listening for gist, listening for specific details, collocation

Optional lead-in

Find a local newspaper, or go to a news website, and take five to seven headlines that you think your students may be familiar with. Put each of these on a separate piece of paper. At the beginning of class, put students into small groups and give each group a headline. They must work together and produce a summary of all they know about the news story behind the headline.

Warmer

1. Go through the terms with the students. If they have access to a dictionary, ask them to look up the terms they don't know. Clarify any misunderstanding, then ask them to rank the ways of getting news from the most common to the least common.
2. Put the students into pairs and ask them to compare their answers. Direct them to the questions and ask them to ask and answer. Do some whole class feedback on this. What are the best sources of news, according to the class? This is a good moment to encourage them to read the news in English from time to time as a way of practising outside class.

Listening

1. Explain that the students are going to hear seven people talk about how they get the news. Write the word *Internet* on the board and direct students to question 3. Tell them they should make a tick for each speaker who mentions Internet as a source of news.

Answer: five

2. Direct students to the detailed questions. Play the listening again, pausing after each speaker to allow students to write. You may need to repeat the whole thing again at the end.

Answers:

1. a Mac; 2. morning newspapers; 3. because it gives you



an idea of what's happening around you; 4. newspaper; 5. because he's busy with jobs; 6. Radio, newspapers, TV, talking to people, seeing what's going on in the world; 7. three or four times a day

Vocabulary

Ask students to look at the sentences from the listening. They have to provide the missing word.

Alternative procedure: tell students to turn the page over. Read each sentence out, but leave a gap (or say *Mm Mm*) for the missing word. Tell students to write what word they think goes there.

Example:

Teacher reads, *It's a programme about Mm Mm affairs in the news. (Students write current).*

Answers:

1. *current affairs*; 2. *form opinion*; 3. *basic idea*; 4. *follow the news*; 5. *that's about it*

Speaking

1. Put students into groups and go over the instructions for the quiz with them. If you have access to a computer room, they can prepare the quiz in class. Alternatively, they prepare their questions for homework.

2. Circulate and check the questions the students make are correct. In the next class, put each group with another and have them ask their questions.

Answers to sample questions:

Beijing; False; a) John McCain; Wall-E

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Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's Live from London podcasts. In Live from London we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today we went to Covent Garden and asked people about the news.

**Speaker 1 (male, British)**

The news for me is probably my primary source of information about the world, um, and about current affairs. Um, everything that affects me day-to-day, um, I get information about from the news services. So whether that's from RSS feeds that I've um, I've fed into my, into my Mac, or through the BBC or the World Service. I, I generally form my opinions about the world through the news. Um, and, you know, form, um, the basis of my, my existence through what goes on around me and I'm not gonna get that through any other source than from the news.

Speaker 2 (male, British)

News is important, yes, I kinda get it from the Internet and get it from morning papers like Metro or City AM.

Speaker 3 (male, British)

Okay, newspapers, Internet, television, all the news channels. Why? Because you just get to know about the world, what's happening. You know, that, that gives you a basic idea of what's happening around you. So, it's good to know.

Speaker 4 (female)

So I do follow the news, I think, yes it's important, and mostly on, uh, newspapers and, uh, TV - sometimes Internet, but I prefer paper.

Speaker 5 (male, African)

Yeah, I do follow the news but not very often, 'cos I'm busy doing jobs, the jobs. So, but, eh, every time I follow the news it is on, eh, TV, and sometime on the Internet when I have time.

Speaker 6 (male, Canadian)

Radio, newspapers and TV: a combination of all. Talking to people, seeing what's going on in the world, and that's about it!

Speaker 7 (male, Scottish)

Uh, well, I hardly ever read the news but I, I watch it a lot. Um, I can't remember the last time I bought a newspaper. Um, but, I watch the news at least three or four times a day on TV and, eh, just slightly less frequently, eh, through the Internet.

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Warmer

1. How do you get your news? Check you understand these terms, then put them in order from 1 (most common) to 6 (least common).

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> TV newshour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> national newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RSS feed | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 hour news television channel | |



2. Compare your answers with a partner. Then answer the questions:

- What channel/newspaper/website do you think is best for news?
- Do you ever read or listen to English news?
- What kind of news do you follow most? Sports, national, international, entertainment or other?

Listening

3. You are going to listen to seven different people talk about the news in their lives. How many people get the news from the Internet?

4. Listen again and answer the questions.

Speaker 1: What kind of computer does the man have? A Mac or a PC?

Speaker 2: What are Metro and City AM?

Speaker 3: Why is it good to know about the news according to this man?

Speaker 4: What does she prefer: internet or newspaper?

Speaker 5: Why doesn't the man follow the news very often?

Speaker 6: This man says he gets the news from a combination of what five things?

Speaker 7: How often does the man watch the news?

Vocabulary: Collocations

5. Complete the gaps with the correct collocation. The first letter is given.

1. It's a programme about c_____ affairs in the news.
2. The national news helps f_____ people's opinion.
3. I don't know the details, but I get the b_____ idea.
4. She f_____ the news every day.
5. I watch the evening news, and that's a_____ it.

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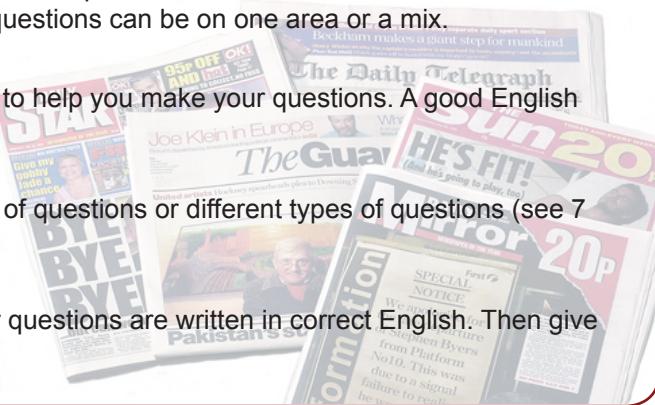
Speaking

6. Work in groups. You are going to prepare a quiz about the news.

Read the instructions.



1. Your quiz should include ten questions from the news.
2. Choose a news area for your quiz, for example: INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, LOCAL, SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT. Your questions can be on one area or a mix.
3. Use a newspaper or a news website to help you make your questions. A good English news website is www.bbc.co.uk.
4. The questions can be the same type of questions or different types of questions (see 7 below for types of questions).
5. When you are ready, check that your questions are written in correct English. Then give your quiz to another group to do.



7. Here are some sample quiz question types. Use these to help you make your quiz.

Wh- questions

Where was the opening ceremony of the 2008 Chinese Olympics?

True/False questions

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a former president of Russia.

Multiple choice questions

The Republican candidate for the US Presidency is:

- a) John McCain b) George Bush c) Barack Obama

Complete the sentence questions

The 2008 Disney Pixar film about a little robot left all alone on Earth is called...