

UNIT 3 : THE NEWS AND MEDIA

A. GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

Exercise 1 :

Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

breaking news

bulletin

headlines

interview

news flash

notifications

round-the-clock reporting

scandal

- 1 I don't usually read the newspaper – I just look at the _____ to see if anything important has happened.
- 2 I was watching a film on TV when suddenly the film was interrupted by a _____. Apparently, there's a bad storm heading towards our region.
- 3 These days, TV news channels have to provide _____. In other words, they have to report the news 24 hours a day.
- 4 I read a really interesting _____ with a former politician in yesterday's newspaper. The interviewer asked lots of really difficult questions and the politician didn't know what to say.
- 5 I've got an app on my phone that sends me _____ of the most important news stories. I can then click on the link to read the full story.
- 6 That's all for today's programme. The next news _____ is at ten o'clock.
- 7 Now we've got some _____ for you. We've just heard that the prime minister is in hospital after a skiing accident.
- 8 There was a shocking story about a tennis player secretly being paid a lot of money to lose an important match. It's a real _____.

Exercise 2 :

Choose the correct words to complete the text.

What are the main *opinions/ sources/ summaries* of news? Where do journalists get their stories from? Well, there's always an element of personal *interviewing/ reporting/ researching* i.e. seeing things with your own eyes and describing what you see. In the same way, journalists interview a

lot of articles/ reporters/ witnesses to events, to find out what happened from the people who actually saw it happening. Journalists can also find their own news stories, through investigation, where they do a lot of research to cause/ discover/ effect something completely new. They can also find out useful information from account/ reaction/ social media sites. It's fair to say that a large number of news stories are provided by businesses and other organisations as press archives/ images/ releases. Organisations also hold press conferences, where a large number of journalists are invited to listen to important discussions/ radion/ statements and then ask questions.

Exercise 3 :

Complete the sentences. Use the verbs in the box.

comment

follow

interview

release

report

research

stay

update

- 1 I'd love to be a TV journalist so I could travel around the world and on all the big events, as they happen.
- 2 Last month, I tried to a famous film star about her latest film, but she didn't want to answer any of my questions.
- 3 So, that's all we know at the moment, but we'll you on this breaking news as soon as we have more information.
- 4 I try to up to date with news and current affairs, so I always watch news programmes on TV.
- 5 Our reporter spent six months trying to the story behind the scandal. You can watch his full report later this evening.
- 6 I don't really all the latest celebrity news. I don't think it's important to know what famous people are doing all the time.
- 7 Whenever I read an interesting news story online, I always on it. I think it's important to give my own opinion, not just to read other people's.
- 8 The company says it will a statement shortly to explain why it took this action.

Exercise 4 :

Answer the questions. Use the phrases in the box.

Business news

Editorial section

Entertainment news

Lifestyle section

Local news

Review section

Sports news

The main story

- 1 Where could you find news about your favourite sports team?
- 2 Where could you read stories and advice about things like fashion, cooking and gardening?
- 3 Where could you find news about music, TV, films, etc.?
- 4 Where could you find news about finance, economics and companies?
- 5 Where could you find news about your own town or city?
- 6 Where could you find the most important news of the day?
- 7 Where could you read journalists' own opinions and comments about news stories?
- 8 Where could you find out whether new books, films and music are good or bad?

Exercise 5 :

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 It's good to make notes during an interview, then to make/ pick/ write them up afterwards.
- 2 Why are the newspapers full of bad news? I need some good news to catch/ cheer/ turn me up!
- 3 I didn't plan to watch the news today, but the first news story was really interesting and ended/ followed/ went up watching the whole programme.

4 I always watch the TV news in the morning, and then I catch/ stay/ write up on the news during the day on my phone.

5 Did you hear/ hold/ see any interesting news from those celebrities you met?

6 Do you really think all those stories are true, or do the newspapers just cheer/ do/ make them up?

Exercise 6 :

Read the information. Then choose the correct reason for using the passive in each sentence.

We often use the passive (e.g. *something is / was done*):

- to make our language sound more formal
- to show a link between the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next
- to describe impersonal or technical processes
- when the agent (the person or thing that did the action) isn't known
- when the agent isn't important to the story – for example, because we can easily work out who it is
- when we don't want to say who the agent is
- when we want to draw special attention to the agent. We use *by* before the agent and put it at the end of the sentence
- when the agent is a process or event, such as a storm or an accident. We often introduce this type of agent with *in*.

1 The office **was broken into** at around midnight.

- ☐ The agent isn't known.
- ☐ To show a link between the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next.

2 The thief **was arrested** in the early hours of this morning.

- ☐ The agent is an event, not a person.
- ☐ The agent isn't important (we can work out that the agent was the police).

3 I'm afraid some incorrect information **was given** at our last press conference.

- ☐ The speaker is describing a process, so there's no need to mention people.
- ☐ We don't want to say who the agent is.

4 The police are investigating the theft of a priceless painting. It **was stolen** from an art gallery last night.

- ☐ To show a link between the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next.
- ☐ The agent isn't important to the story (we can work out that the agent was the burglars).

5 Thank you for your help. It **is greatly appreciated**.

- ☐ We don't want to say who the agent is.
- ☐ To sound more formal.

6 The event **was attended** by over three thousand students.

- ☐ The agent is an event.
- ☐ To draw special attention to the agent (i.e. the students).

7 The house **was damaged** in a storm.

- ☐ The agent was an event, not a person.
- ☐ To sound more formal.

Exercise 7 :

Choose the correct passive forms to complete the sentences.

1 These days, fewer newspapers are being bought/ was bought/ is bought, as more people get their news from free news websites.

2 The cause of the accident had been known/ was known/ isn't known, but the police are investigating it at the moment.

3 The good thing about online newspapers is that they're updated/ they've been updated/ they were updated all the time, unlike print newspapers.

4 When is the photograph taken/ was the photograph being taken/ was the photograph taken?

5 The politician spoke about her political opponent while she has been interviewed/ is being interviewed/ was being interviewed by a journalist live on TV.

6 Don't worry – you can speak honestly. This interview isn't recorded/ isn't being recorded/ was recorded.

Exercise 8 : Read the information. Then rewrite the sentences in the passive, using *It is/was + past participle + that*. The first question has been done for you.

Use the structure *It is/was + past participle + that ...* (e.g. *it is believed that ...*) to create passive sentences.

Remember to change the order of the structure in questions (e.g. *When was it made?* NOT *When it was made?*).

Don't include the agent (the person or thing that did the action).

1 The police think that the man was responsible for several similar robberies last year.

It was thought that the man was responsible for several similar robberies last year.

2 We hoped that some witnesses might come forward, but so far, nobody has approached us.

_____ come forward, but so far, nobody has approached us.

3 We understand that someone will release a statement soon.

_____ a statement soon.

- 4 People don't often say that politicians have a sense of humour, but this story shows that some politicians can be funny.

_____ a sense of humour, but this story shows that some politicians can be funny.

- 5 Why did the reporter announce that the factory is staying open, when in fact it's going to close?

Why _____ open, when in fact, it's going to close?

Exercise 9 :

Read the active sentences. Then complete the passive sentences. You might have to change the form of some of the words. The first question has been done for you.

1 ACTIVE: A fire completely destroyed a local factory last night.

PASSIVE: A local factory was completely destroyed last night in a fire.

2 ACTIVE: Several witnesses in nearby houses heard the noise.

PASSIVE: _____ by several witnesses in nearby houses.

3 ACTIVE: Fortunately, the fire didn't kill anybody.

PASSIVE: Fortunately, _____ in the fire.

4 ACTIVE: However, flying glass cut three security guards.

PASSIVE: However, _____ by flying glass.

5 ACTIVE: People are still investigating the cause of the fire.

PASSIVE: _____ investigated.

6 ACTIVE: However, people are treating it as an accident, not a crime.

PASSIVE: However, _____ as an accident, not a crime.

7 ACTIVE: One possibility is that an electrical fault inside the factory caused the fire.

PASSIVE: One possibility is _____ inside the factory.

8 ACTIVE: The police advise members of the public to stay away from the scene of the fire.

PASSIVE: _____ to stay away from the scene of the fire.

Exercise 10 :

Read the information. Then choose the correct words or phrases to complete the text.

Using time markers

First, firstly, at first, etc.

- We use *firstly / secondly / thirdly / finally*, etc. to put a series of events in order: e.g. *There are three things you need to do. **Firstly**, you need to do X. **Secondly**, you need to do Y. **Finally**, you need to do Z.*
- We can use *first* (or *first of all*) instead of *firstly*: e.g. ***First** (of all), you need to do X.*
- We use *at first* to describe what was true at the beginning, before it changed later: e.g. ***At first**, there were only a few people. But more and more people arrived during the day.*
- We can use *first* between the subject and verb to describe the beginning of a process or the first time something happened: e.g. *I **first** met her when we were students, but we've met many times since then.*

At the end / in the end

- We use *at the end* to describe the last part of an event: e.g. ***At the end** (of the party), everyone went home.*
- We use *in the end* to describe the final (and perhaps unexpected) results: e.g. *We were really worried about his illness, but **in the end** he made a full recovery.*

While, during, meanwhile

- After *while*, we need a clause (subject + verb): e.g. ***While we were** at the meeting, I checked my emails.*
- It's also possible to have an *-ing* clause after *while*: e.g. ***While waiting**, I checked my emails (= While I was waiting ...).*
- After *during*, we need a noun phrase: e.g. ***During the meeting**, I checked my emails.*
- We usually use *meanwhile* to connect two separate sentences: e.g. *He gave a really boring presentation at the meeting. **Meanwhile**, I checked my emails.*

When the robbery of a local museum was first/ firstly/ while reported, nobody paid it much attention. At first/ first/ secondly, it was thought that nothing valuable was missing. However, it was later discovered that some valuable coins were missing. During/ Meanwhile/ While a recent press conference, an expert was asked what the thieves might do with the coins. She suggested three possibilities: at first/ firstly/ in the end, the thieves might try to sell the coins to a collector. This was considered to be rather unlikely, as it would be easy to find the coins. Meanwhile/ second/ secondly, they might melt the coins and sell the gold from them. This was also thought to be unlikely, as the gold would be worth a lot less than the coins themselves. At the end/ Finally/ Last, the coins might be sent abroad for sale in another country. This was seen as the most likely case.

During/ Meanwhile/ While, the police have released a statement, announcing that they have a good idea who the thieves are. 'We are confident that we will catch them at the end/ finally/ in the end, even if it takes months, and we will return the coins to the museum.' the statement said.