

56 News headlines

Headlines	Meaning
Arms deal probe	arms <i>formal</i> weapons, especially used by the armed forces deal an agreement, especially in business probe an investigation into sth probe v
Mother's plea to kidnappers	a plea (for sth) <i>formal</i> an important and emotional request kidnapper sb who takes a person away illegally and keeps them as a prisoner, usually in order to get money (called a ransom) kidnap v
Government pledges more aid	pledge formally promise to give or do sth pledge n aid money, food, etc, that is sent to a country to help them
Senate urges caution	urge advise or try hard to persuade sb to do sth
Bid to axe rail chief	bid an effort to do sth or get sth bid v axe remove sb from their job; get rid of a service, system, etc: <i>Bus company plans to axe part of rural service.</i> chief the most important or one of the most important people in a company, often used in job titles: <i>a police chief</i>
Minister vows to quit	minister a senior member of a government who is in charge of a government department or a branch of one vow make a formal and serious promise to do sth vow n
Bomb blast wrecks factory	(bomb) blast an explosion wreck destroy sth wreck n
Boost for voters	boost sth that helps or encourages people boost v
Go-ahead for road scheme	go-ahead formal permission to do sth scheme an official plan or system for doing sth
IMG cease trading	cease <i>formal</i> stop (sth) happening or existing. A ceasefire is an agreement between two sides to stop fighting.
Doctor cleared of negligence	clear sb (of sth) prove that sb is innocent of doing sth wrong
Injury blow for United	blow shock or disappointment
New flood alert	alert a warning
Police foil bomb plot	foil prevent a plan from succeeding plot a secret plan by people to do sth wrong or illegal SYN conspiracy ; plot v
PM rules out referendum	rule sth out reject the possibility of sth
Lords back hunting ban	the Lords (OR the House of Lords) in Britain, the second and higher part of Parliament, after <i>the House of Commons</i> , whose members are not elected by the people of the country back give help or support to sb/sth backing n hunting the act of killing wild animals for food or sport

SPOTLIGHT headline words

Certain words often appear in newspaper headlines because they are very short, e.g. *bid, plea, quit*. Other words give stories a more dramatic effect, e.g. *blast, boost*.

1 Is the pronunciation of the underlined letters the same or different? Write S or D.
Use the **APP** to help you.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 plea <u>pledge</u> | 5 axe <u>alert</u> |
| 2 boost <u>blow</u> | 6 wreck <u>scheme</u> |
| 3 pledge <u>ahead</u> | 7 scheme <u>cease</u> |
| 4 probe <u>vow</u> | 8 minister <u>conspiracy</u> |

2 Good news or bad news for the people in the headlines? Write G or B.

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|---|---|
| 1 Further blow for house buyers | 5 PM gets backing from parliament for new rail system |
| 2 Company <u>axes</u> chairman | 6 New deal for manager |
| 3 Doctors given go-ahead for new drug | 7 Boost for farmers |
| 4 Company <u>ceases</u> operations | 8 Army foils criminal plot |

3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

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|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 vow | a secret plan |
| 2 plea | b official plan |
| 3 bid | c request |
| 4 conspiracy | d explosion |
| 5 blow | e investigation |
| 6 alert | f promise |
| 7 probe | g warning |
| 8 scheme | h disappointment |
| 9 blast | i agreement |
| 10 deal | j attempt |

4 Replace the underlined words to create typical headlines.

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|--|-------|
| 1 New <u>weapons agreement</u> | |
| 2 Government <u>promises</u> to <u>support</u> new hospital | |
| 3 <u>Permission</u> for rail <u>plan</u> | |
| 4 Company <u>managing director forced from his job</u> | ..... |
| 5 <u>Help and encouragement</u> for big banks | ..... |
| 6 Latest statistics a <u>shock and disappointment</u> for the economy | ..... |
| 7 <u>Men who took child</u> demand <u>money for her return</u> | ..... |
| 8 <u>Senior members of the government</u> <u>strongly advise</u> delay | ..... |
| 9 Motorcyclist <u>found innocent</u> of child's death | ..... |
| 10 PM <u>rejects the possibility of</u> further tax cuts. | ..... |

5 Write your own headlines for these news stories. Keep to a maximum of six words for each headline and use the present tense for verbs.

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|---|-------|
| 1 An explosion has destroyed a new shopping centre | |
| 2 Senators reject the possibility of more money and help for poor countries | |
| 3 Shareholders attempt to force the chairman to resign | ..... |
| 4 Officers prevent a secret plan to escape from prison | ..... |
| 5 Attempt to change law on killing wild animals for sport | ..... |
| 6 There are new warnings about the dangers of certain food | ..... |



TEST YOURSELF