

news 5



VLOGS

Q: How do you get your news?

1 ▶ Watch the video. Note down some of the sources for getting news the people mention.

2 How do you get your news? Do you use any of the sources the speakers mention?

Global Scale of English

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

5A READING | Read an article about fake news: news and social media

Pronunciation: *wh-*

Talk about a news story: relative clauses

5B LISTENING | Understand a podcast about young people in the news: social issues; the environment

Pronunciation: silent letters

Plan a campaign: reported speech

Write an online comment in response to an article

5C HOW TO ... | give and respond to personal news: events and occasions

Pronunciation: intonation to exaggerate feelings

5D BBC STREET INTERVIEWS | Understand people talking about the news

Plan a news app: *will*, *might* and *be going to* for predictions

Write a webpage about a news app

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5A Fake news

GRAMMAR | relative clauses
VOCABULARY | news and social media
PRONUNCIATION | *wh-*

READING

1 **Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.**

1 What was the last news story you discussed with someone? Where did you read or hear it?
2 How important is it to understand what is happening in your country, or the world?
3 How do you decide if something you see online is real or fake?

2A **Look at the photos above and discuss the questions.**

1 Do you think they are real or fake? Why?
2 Imagine the photos are in a newspaper or magazine. What might the news stories be?

B **Read the article. Answer the questions.**

1 What jobs do the two people in the article do?
2 How are their jobs connected?

C **Read the article again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?**

1 Christopher Blair works for a traditional newspaper.
2 Blair always writes news stories about similar topics.
3 Maarten Schenk needs to work quickly to discover the real facts about a story.
4 Schenk is often unable to stop a fake news story from spreading.
5 Christopher Blair and Maarten Schenk are working against one another.
6 People who write fake news are not motivated by money.
7 Fact checkers are used by social media companies to reduce the amount of fake news.

D **Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.**

1 How do you think Christopher Blair and Maarten Schenk feel about their work?
2 In what ways can fake news be dangerous?
3 How do you think social media sites should deal with fake news?
4 Who should pay to find and change fake news?
5 Would you prefer to be a fake news writer or a fact checker? Why?

Real or fake?

The news that travels fast

Christopher Blair, who lives on the U.S. East Coast, is one of the world's most creative news writers. He isn't a **journalist** who writes articles for a newspaper. He writes news stories which are not true. He invents them and **publishes** them online. He writes about anything: politics, a famous athlete or someone who has been in the news recently. First, he writes a **headline** which will get attention. Then, he adds a few details and before long, he has written a **blog post**, which is about 200 words long. He **posts** his story **online**, sits back and watches the 'likes' and 'shares' begin. Sometimes he gets thousands of views in just minutes.

Maarten Schenk, who lives in a small town near Brussels, Belgium, works from home. He sits at his desk in front of three computer screens. On one of the screens, he suddenly notices a lot of activity. The USA is waking up, and there's a news story which is being shared by lots of people on Facebook and other social networks. Schenk is a man who likes to **find out** the truth. He does some fact-checking, goes to his website, and starts to type. His job is to tell the world that what he's seeing online – the story that's currently going viral about a U.S. politician – is completely invented. It's **fake news**.



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Blair and Schenk are in a game of cat and mouse, and the mouse usually wins. Why? Because he's one step ahead. Fact checkers work day and night, but by the time they find the fake news, it's often too late. The story has already gone halfway around the world.

Why do Blair and other fake news writers do it? What motivates them? In some cases, their websites began as a joke. Then they realised they were writing **content** that people wanted to read. Sometimes the motivation is financial, other times political. Or maybe it's just the joy of creativity. Instead of publishing short stories and novels, which take years, they can put their work in front of the world in minutes.

What about Schenk and the fact checkers? Nowadays, they're often employed by social media sites, and their job is to find and spread the truth. It's an old-fashioned type of work: investigating, making phone calls, searching the internet. What motivates them is discovering the lie, and maybe the fact that their job is never finished. For every Maarten Schenk, there are dozens of Christopher Blairs producing stories like rabbits out of a hat.



VOCABULARY

news and social media

3A **Look at the words in bold in the article. Match them with the meanings (1–8).**

1 makes a story available for other people to read, in print or online
2 someone who writes about the news for a newspaper, radio, TV, etc.
3 to discover information
4 uploads a story on the internet
5 the title of a story in the news, usually printed in large letters
6 news that is invented and not true
7 the main information in the news story
8 an article on someone's personal webpage

B **Complete the sentences using the correct form of words and phrases from Ex 3A.**

1 I sometimes _____ my own ideas online on social media.
2 When I look at newspapers I never read a full article – I only read the _____.
3 I think it's difficult to _____ if a story is fake news.
4 I think it's important for _____ who write for newspapers to check the facts.
5 I try to write a _____ twice a week, sharing my thoughts and feelings.
6 I think it's pretty easy to spot _____. This kind of story never contains facts and the writers are not well respected.

C **Change the sentences in Ex 3B so they are true for you. Then compare your ideas with a partner.**

I often read the headlines first, but then I choose two or three news stories to read in full.

D **Work with other students. Read the Future Skills box and discuss the questions.**

FUTURE SKILLS
Critical thinking

When you read news stories, it is important to think about whether they are true or fake. Before you share a news story, you should:

- look at the source and author of the article to see if you can trust them.
- read the whole article, not only the headline.
- check if the same news story is in other news sites that you trust
- check some of the facts in the article, e.g. the names of experts.

Do you use any of these strategies when you access the news? Which ones? What else do you do?

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GRAMMAR

relative clauses

4 A Complete the sentences about the article with *who*, *which*, *when*, *where* or *whose*.

1 Christopher Blair is a journalist _____ writes fake news.
2 He writes news stories _____ are completely fake.
3 This is the room _____ Maarten Schenk works.
4 He makes a note of the time _____ a story is first shared on social media.
5 This is the politician _____ story went viral.

B In which sentences can the relative pronoun be replaced by *that*?

C Learn and practise. Go to the Grammar Bank.

page 120 **GRAMMAR BANK**

PRONUNCIATION

5 A 5.01 | *wh-* | Listen to two sentences. Notice how the sound *wh-* is pronounced in *who* and *when*. Which one is pronounced as /h/?

B 5.02 | Complete the table with the words in the box. Then listen and check.

~~when~~ where which ~~who~~ whose

/h/	/w/
who	when

C Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then practise saying them.

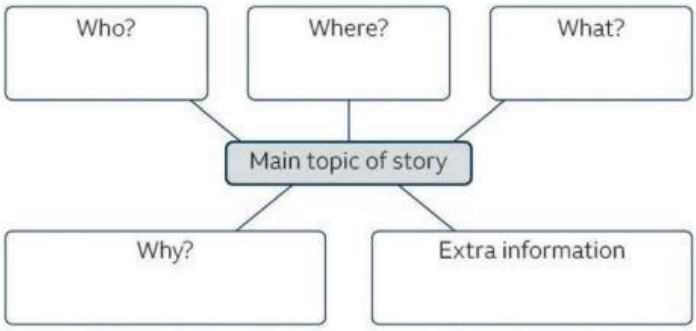
1 I know someone who …
2 I'd like to go to a place where …
3 I remember a time when …
4 … is something which I enjoy doing.
5 I am someone whose …

6 Work in pairs. Student A: Go to page 148. Student B: Go to page 146. Guess the people and things.



SPEAKING

7 A Work in groups of three, Students A, B and C. Read your news story and prepare to retell it. Use the word web to make notes to help you. Plan two relative clauses you can include.



A

BREAKING NEWS … Journalist Amy Ellis reports

WHALE LANDS IN FARMER'S FIELD A 30,000 kg whale has landed in a farmer's field in Arkadelphia, 482 km off the coast of Louisiana. The whale, which was picked up by the powerful winds of Hurricane Delta, was 15 m long. Jerry O'Bourke, 97, had the surprise of his life when he discovered the whale outside the back of his house. O'Bourke, who has been a farmer all his life, says he has never seen such an incredible thing. Other animals that have been picked up by hurricanes include cats, frogs, dogs and cows.

B

WORLD NEWS DAILY REPORT

SPIDER BITE! Three brothers from La Paz, Bolivia, were taken to hospital after being bitten by a black widow spider. The boys, who were aged eight, ten and twelve, let the spider bite them because they wanted to develop superpowers, like their favourite superhero. Soon afterwards they felt ill and had to be taken to hospital. Luckily the boys survived, and went home after spending a week in hospital.

C

LOCAL NEWS

YOUR PIZZA DELIVERY! A man who lives in Belgium keeps receiving pizzas which he never orders. Every day for nearly ten years, deliveries of pizzas and other fast food arrive at his house, but he never orders them. Jean Van Landeghem says he waits in his house every day until he hears the delivery scooter on the street. One day, ten delivery drivers arrived in a single day, and one of them tried to deliver fourteen pizzas. The 65-year-old has reported the problem to the police.

B Tell your news story to the other people in your group. Try not to look at the text. Then work together in your groups.

This story is about three brothers who …

C Which story do you think is fake news? Why? Check the answer on page 146.

8 Research a short news story or create a fake one. Then work in groups to tell your stories. Can other students guess if your story is true or fake?

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