

19 The media

The news, fame

The news

1.1 Answer these questions.

- 1 Are you
 - A well-informed about current affairs?
 - B not interested in current affairs?
- 2 Do you consider newspapers to be
 - A biased
 - B entertaining
 - C informative?
- 3 Do you prefer to get the news from
 - A newspapers
 - B the Internet
 - C the radio
 - D the television?



1.2 19a Listen and say whether the following statements are true or false according to the speaker. Correct the statements that are false.

- 1 The speaker believes the general public is well-informed. False, they are ill-informed.
- 2 The Manly University project focused on stories about famous people.
.....
- 3 Dan Taylor believes that the main aim of today's mass media is to inform people.
.....
- 4 The study revealed that newspapers avoid reporting on the gap between the rich and the poor.
.....
- 5 Important news stories appear in the back pages because this highlights their importance.
.....

1.3 19a Listen again and find words or phrases that match these definitions.

- 1 a situation in which newspapers, radio and television are allowed to express opinions openly
- 2 to send out a programme on television or radio
- 3 written about or spoken of in the news
- 4 large systems consisting of many similar parts all of which are centrally controlled
- 5 newspapers, radio and television when seen as a group
- 6 the deliberate removal of sections of a text or film considered to be unsuitable
- 7 a popular newspaper with lots of pictures and short articles
- 8 words in large print at the start of a news story or the main stories in the news

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Vocabulary note

We say something/someone **has a / is a** good/bad/positive or negative **influence on** someone/something: *John's new friends **are a** really bad **influence on** him.* Influence can be a verb or a noun: *The media **influences** the way many people think. The media **has a** major **influence on** the way many people think.*

Remember that *effect* is a noun and *affect* is a verb. These can be used in a similar way to *influence*: *The media **affects** the way many people think. The media **has a** major **effect on** the way many people think.*

Error warning!



We say **on** the radio, **on** television, **on** screen, **on** the computer, **on** the Internet. We use **in** with printed media: *We learn all about celebrities **in** magazines or **on** television.* NOT *in magazines or television.* These materials are freely available **on** the Internet. NOT *in the Internet.*

- 3.1** These adjectives can be used to talk about the media or people in the media. Decide whether they are used in a negative or a positive way and put them in the correct box.

artificial biased distorted factual
informative invasive intrusive
pervasive realistic sensationalist
superficial unbiased attention-grabbing

Positive	Negative

- 3.2** Think about your answers to these questions. Try to use as many of the adjectives from 3.1 as you can.

- Would you like to be famous? (Why? / Why not?)
- Do you think famous people have a positive or a negative influence on young people?
- Nowadays we have access to the news 24 hours a day. What effect does this have?

- 3.3** Complete these answers to the questions in 3.2 with a suitable word or phrase. Then listen and check your answers.

- I think a lot of people want to be famous nowadays and that's why reality TV is so popular. But I wouldn't like to be famous at all. Being famous nowadays simply means that you're in the ¹t..... a lot and you're followed by the ²p..... everywhere you go. I'd find that very ³i..... . Famous people have no ⁴p..... at all in any part of their life. Their life also seems to be very ⁵s..... because they spend all of their time going to parties and trying to look glamorous. It all seems very ⁶a..... to me – they just don't seem to be part of the real world at all.
- I think they should have a positive ⁷i..... on young people, but many of them don't. Some personalities are good role models and use their ⁸c..... status to encourage people to think about important issues, but we often see photos of famous people behaving badly.
- I think it can ⁹a..... us in both positive and negative ways. On the one hand, it's very convenient to be able to catch up with what's happening in the world at any time of the day or night, no matter where you are. But on the other hand, this kind of news can give you a ¹⁰d..... view of what's happening, because even minor news ¹¹s..... are given more importance than they perhaps should have.

- 4.1** **PRONUNCIATION** Which of the following sounds do these words have: s (stop), z (zoo), ʒ (Asia) or ʃ (shop)?

artificial ...f...	censor	intrusive	invasive
attention	exposed	intrusion	publication
biased	exposure	invasion	superficial

- 4.2** Now listen and practise saying the words.