Not the Normal News

rack 13

ewspapers and television news programs always seem to report about the bad things happening in **society**. However, there is a place where readers can find some good news. That place is the website called *HappyNews*.

The man behind *HappyNews* is Byron Reese. Reese set up *HappyNews* because he thought other news sources were giving people an **unbalanced** view of the world. Reese said about *HappyNews*, "The **news media** gives you a **distorted** view of the world by **exaggerating** bad news, **misery**, and **despair**. We're trying to balance out the scale."

Not everyone agrees with Reese's view, though. Many people think that news sources have a responsibility to provide news that is helpful to people. People need to know about issues or problems in today's society. Then people are better able to make informed decisions about things that affect their daily lives. Reese said that *HappyNews* is not trying to stop people from learning about issues or problems.

HappyNews is just trying to provide a balanced

picture of today's world.

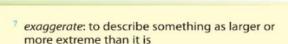
By the end of its first month online, *HappyNews* had more than 70,000 unique readers. About 60 percent of those readers were women. Something else unique makes *HappyNews* different from any of the other news or information websites that are on the Internet. Unlike many other websites, *HappyNews* gets **fan mail** from its readers on a daily basis.

Reading Time

minutes

seconds

230 words



- 7 misery: suffering; sadness
- ⁷ despair: without hope; extreme sadness
- ²² fan mail: letters or notes from people who enjoy or support something

- ⁵ unbalanced: not equal; one-sided
- 6 news media: newspapers, magazines, TV news shows, etc.
- 6 distort: to not truly represent the facts; to be false



society: a body of individuals living as members of a community

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

- 1. What is another possible title for the reading?
 - a. "Byron Reese Tells People How to Be Happy"
- b. "Good News for a Change"
- c. "Newspapers vs. Online News"
- d. "Why Women Like HappyNews"
- 2. How is HappyNews different than other news sources?
 - a. All of the stories are written by Reese. b. HappyNews does not exaggerate its stories.
 - c. Its stories are not about bad things.
- d. The website only has stories about women.
- 3. Why might some people NOT like HappyNews?
 - a. It doesn't tell them about important issues or problems.
 - b. Reese's stories are about misery and despair.
 - c. Some sources give a balanced view.
 - d. The stories are from around the world.
- 4. Which of the following is NOT true about *HappyNews* after its first month online?
 - a. It had thousands of readers.
 - b. Most of its readers were women.
 - c. Readers sent in nice letters about it every day.
 - d. Reese used it to create other websites.
- 5. What does "unique" mean in this reading?
 - a. Different

b. Interesting

c. One of a kind

d. Awful

Idiomatic Expressions

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set up [to create; to start]

Henry Ford set up his car company in 1903.

agree with [to have the same idea or opinion as someone]

I agree with you. Last night's homework was very difficult.

on a daily basis [every day]

Do you exercise on a daily basis?

Il in the blank with one of the ab	ove idioms. Change	e its form if necessary.
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1.	It is	important	to practice your	English _		

2. Not all of the reports ______ each other about the facts of the court case.

The artist ______ her new studio in her basement.

BLIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases.

agrees with responsibility	balanced set up	reports
A man named Byron Reese	1 an	online source of news information
Reese's website is different fro	m other news media l	pecause his website only
2 happy news.	Reese believes	
that he can provide a more 3_		
view of today's society by repo	orting stories that	1 10000
don't focus on bad things. Othe	ers believe that the	-
news media has the 4	to report	
on issues that people need to l	know about. Reese	
5 them, but he	also thinks people	
get a distorted view of the wor		
about bad news all the time.		

Listening

Sources of the News



Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

- 1. Who reviews news stories before they are posted on HappyNews?
 - a. Byron Reese

- c. HappyNews readers
- b. HappyNews editors
- d. Other news sources
- 2. Which of the following statements is true according to the dialog?
 - a. Both speakers have written stories for HappyNews.
 - b. HappyNews stories cannot be found in other news sources.
 - c. Regular people can write stories for HappyNews.
 - d. The HappyNews editors rewrite stories from other news sources.
- 3. What should a writer be sure to include with his or her story?
 - a. Extra copies

b. Other media

c. Photographs

d. Sources



Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A.	A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.						
1.	1. Do you know when people how to make concrete?						
	a. discovered	b. prevented	c. provided	d. reported			
2.	He used only his perso	nal money to l	nis new company.				
	a. agree with	5 8 9 9	5 (5)	d. move around			
3.	No one told me that lo	cking the door at nigh	nt was my				
	a. activity	b. diversity	c. misery	d. responsibility			
4.	Sometimes I am not sure if I can really trust the information reported by the						
	a. fan mail	b. news media	c. role model	d. view			
5.	The essay was too one-sided. It did not give a presentation of the situation.						
	a. balanced	b. complex	c. daily	d. distorted			
6.	6. When people live together in a, they have to agree on certain rules to follow						
	a. behavior	b. despair	c. society	d. stress			
7.	7. The that you heard was just rain hitting the window.						
	a. benefit	b. issue	c. noise	d. source			
B.	Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.						
8.	ature and hard-working.						
	a. responsibility	b. responsible	c. irresponsible				
9.	Lots of people these da	ys belong to n	etworking website	es.			
	a. society	b. social	c. socially				
10.	The fish could not have						
	a. exaggeration	b. exaggerating	c. exaggerated				

