

INTERMEDIATE UNIT 2

news reports

speakout WRITING TIP

Before you write a news report, it's a good idea to ask yourself questions beginning with *why, what, where, how* and *when*. This will help you to give all the key information to the reader. It is also a good idea to use time linkers such as *while, during, until, as soon as, by the time* to clarify the sequence of events.

1 Read the headline below. Write six questions that a reader might like to know about the story.

Boy flies to London alone!

2 Now read the news report. Does it answer all your questions?

A five-year-old boy has flown to London, alone and without a passport, because he wanted to see the Olympic Games.

Dawayne Shalamar crossed the Atlantic on a flight to Heathrow without a ticket, passport or a seat on the plane. He had previously passed through strict security at JFK International Airport in New York before boarding the AB Airlines flight to London.

“We really don’t know how this happened,” said a spokesperson for AB Airlines. “He queued with everyone else to get on the flight but somehow we didn’t ask to see his boarding card or passport.”

As soon as Dawayne had passed through the gate he took an empty seat on the plane. The cabin crew assumed he was with the people sitting next to him. They gave him two meals, and one of the cabin crew even played a game with him during the flight. “Actually, we looked after him pretty well while he was with us,” said the AB Airlines spokesperson.

By the time Dawayne was discovered, he had travelled more than 5,500 kilometres on his own. Nobody became suspicious until he asked border control officials at Heathrow to take him to see Usain Bolt.

Dawayne is now back at home in Queens after a second free flight across the Atlantic.

3 Match each part of the news story to its use.

- 1 quotes
- 2 concluding statement
- 3 introductory statement
- 4 more information

- a) explains in one sentence what happened
- b) the background to the story
- c) used to give someone’s opinion
- d) gives information about the current situation

4 Find five time linkers in the news report. Which time linker do we use to show that:

- 1 something happens immediately after something else?
- 2 something happened previously?
- 3 something happens at the same time as another action?
- 4 something happens between the beginning and end of a period?
- 5 something happened up to a point and then stopped?

5 Complete the sentences with the correct time linker.

- 1 Dawayne’s parents went to the police _____ they had discovered that he was missing.
- 2 Dawayne walked through the airport _____ he got on the flight to London.
- 3 He talked to the other passengers _____ he was waiting.
- 4 Dawayne watched cartoons _____ the flight.
- 5 _____ he arrived home, he had travelled more than 11,000 kilometres.

6 Choose one of the following headlines. Write six questions that a reader might like to know about the story. Then write a news report based on the questions.

*More flooding after hurricane.
Man shot during bank robbery.
Cat found safe after 4 years!*

Plan your writing

- Think of a sentence that summarises the story. Then add details to introduce the main story including opinions from experts or witnesses.
- Remember to add a concluding statement outlining the current situation.
- Quotes – experts or witnesses giving their opinions.
- Concluding statement – the current situation.

Check your writing

- Have you answered all your questions about the headline? Have you used time linkers?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?