

Vocabulary

Talking about the news

1 Complete each news story with a word. The first letter is given.

- The president caused **c** _____ yesterday with a tweet about women's rights.
- A national newspaper has **e** _____ a cover-up within the Ministry for Transport.
- The treatment of a woman in a wheelchair by a bus driver has caused **o** _____ on social media.
- A new law regarding tax on donations has been widely **w** _____ by charities.
- The government have decided to impose **t** _____ on cars imported from overseas.
- Scientists say they've had a major **b** _____ in the fight against diabetes.

2 Complete the conversations with phrases a–l.

- A: That TV presenter's had to resign from his job.
B: He shouldn't have made such **1** _____ online.
A: It certainly **2** _____ among the public.
- A: I think the prime minister's resignation will **3** _____, don't you?
B: Yes, probably. I know we only voted last year, but I think a new vote would be **4** _____ by the public.
- A: Do you think Manchester City will **5** _____?
B: I hope so. It'll **6** _____ around here if they do!
- A: I see the president has **7** _____ again.
B: It's not surprising. A lot of people disagree with him.
A: He's decided to **8** _____ on climate change that so many other countries have signed.
- A: What do you think **9** _____ on the street this weekend?
B: I think a lot of young people are fed up with the unemployment rate.
C: Yes, that was certainly **10** _____.
- A: Did you see that **11** _____ at the hospital?
B: Yes! Apparently, some doctors weren't qualified.
A: Yes, it's shocking. There's been **12** _____ of it on the news.

- a a contributing factor
- b a cover-up has been exposed
- c an offensive comment
- d caused a lot of outrage
- e cause a lot of excitement
- f caused controversy
- g get through to the semi-finals
- h massive coverage
- i trigger another election
- j triggered the riots
- k widely welcomed
- l withdraw from the treaty

Grammar

Second, third and mixed conditionals

3 Choose the correct alternatives.

- We'd never have met if we *didn't go/hadn't gone* to Mara's wedding.
- If you hadn't gone to bed so late, you might not *be/have been* so tired right now.
- We *could stay/could have stayed* later if you'd wanted to.
- We'd be there by now if we *left/'d left* earlier.
- If I *wanted/'d wanted* help, I'd ask for it.
- If you hadn't noticed this flat was for rent, we wouldn't *be living/have lived* here now.
- If I *had been/were* you, I'd go and see a doctor.
- I wouldn't be here today if you *didn't persuade/hadn't persuaded* me to come.

4 Complete the article using the prompts in brackets.

Alternative histories

We're all aware of those huge news stories in the past which changed the world. But **1** _____

_____ (what if / those stories) different?

2 _____

(how / our history / turn out)? That's what writers of alternative histories wonder. They take a moment in history and make it different. For example,

3 _____

(how / our world / different / if / women) in charge for centuries? **4** _____

(might / women / make) different decisions?

5 _____

(the outcomes) better or worse? **6** _____

(how / life / different / if / the southern states / win) the US civil war? **7** _____

(the south / leave) the union? **8** _____ (they)

two separate countries today? These questions provide the backdrop to fascinating stories that both entertain and make us think.

