56 News headlines

Headlines	Meaning
Arms deal probe	**arms** *formal* weapons, especially used by the armed forces **deal** an agreement, especially in business **probe** an investigation into sth **probe** *v*
Mother's **plea** to **kidnappers**	**a plea (for sth)** *formal* an important and emotional request **kidnapper** sb who takes a person away illegally and keeps them as a prisoner, usually in order to get money (called a **ransom**) **kidnap** *v*
Government **pledges** more **aid**	**pledge** formally promise to give or do sth **pledge** *n* **aid** money, food, etc, that is sent to a country to help them
Senate **urges** caution	**urge** advise or try hard to persuade sb to do sth
Bid to **axe** rail **chief**	**bid** an effort to do sth or get sth **bid** *v* **axe** remove sb from their job; get rid of a service, system, etc: *Bus company plans to **axe** part of rural service.* **chief** the most important or one of the most important people in a company, often used in job titles: ***a police chief***
Minister vows to quit	**minister** a senior member of a government who is in charge of a government department or a branch of one **vow** make a formal and serious promise to do sth **vow** *n*
Bomb **blast wrecks** factory	**(bomb) blast** an explosion **wreck** destroy sth **wreck** *n*
Boost for voters	**boost** sth that helps or encourages people **boost** *v*
Go-ahead for road **scheme**	**go-ahead** formal permission to do sth **scheme** an official plan or system for doing sth
IMG **cease** trading	**cease** *formal* stop (sth) happening or existing. A **ceasefire** is an agreement between two sides to stop fighting.
Doctor **cleared of** negligence	**clear sb (of sth)** prove that sb is innocent of doing sth wrong
Injury **blow** for United	**blow** shock or disappointment
New flood **alert**	**alert** a warning
Police **foil** bomb **plot**	**foil** prevent a plan from succeeding **plot** a secret plan by people to do sth wrong or illegal SYN **conspiracy**; **plot** *v*
PM rules out referendum	**rule sth out** reject the possibility of sth
Lords back hunting ban	**the Lords** (OR **the House of Lords**) in Britain, the second and higher part of Parliament, after *the House of Commons*, whose members are not elected by the people of the country **back** give help or support to sb/sth **backing** *n* **hunting** the act of killing wild animals for food or sport

SPOTLIGHT headline words

Certain words often appear in newspaper headlines because they are very short, e.g. *bid, plea, quit*. Other words give stories a more dramatic effect, e.g. *blast, boost*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Is the pronunciation of the underlined letters the same or different? Write *S* or *D*. Use the IPA to help you.**

1 plea pledge .....
2 boost blow .....
3 pledge ahead .....
4 probe vow .....
5 axe alert .....
6 wreck scheme .....
7 scheme cease .....
8 minister conspiracy .....

2 **Good news or bad news for the people in the headlines? Write *G* or *B*.**

1 Further blow for house buyers .....
2 Company axes chairman .....
3 Doctors given go-ahead for new drug .....
4 Company ceases operations .....
5 PM gets backing from parliament for new rail system .....
6 New deal for manager .....
7 Boost for farmers .....
8 Army foils criminal plot .....

3 **Match 1–10 with a–j.**

1 vow .....
2 plea .....
3 bid .....
4 conspiracy .....
5 blow .....
6 alert .....
7 probe .....
8 scheme .....
9 blast .....
10 deal .....

a secret plan
b official plan
c request
d explosion
e investigation
f promise
g warning
h disappointment
i agreement
j attempt

4 **Replace the underlined words to create typical headlines.**

1 New weapons agreement .....
2 Government promises to support new hospital .....
3 Permission for rail plan .....
4 Company managing director forced from his job .....
5 Help and encouragement for big banks .....
6 Latest statistics a shock and disappointment for the economy .....
7 Men who took child demand money for her return .....
8 Senior members of the government strongly advise delay .....
9 Motorcyclist found innocent of child's death .....
10 PM rejects the possibility of further tax cuts. .....

5 **Write your own headlines for these news stories. Keep to a maximum of six words for each headline and use the present tense for verbs.**

1 An explosion has destroyed a new shopping centre
.....
2 Senators reject the possibility of more money and help for poor countries
.....
3 Shareholders attempt to force the chairman to resign
.....
4 Officers prevent a secret plan to escape from prison
.....
5 Attempt to change law on killing wild animals for sport
.....
6 There are new warnings about the dangers of certain food
.....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS