

# 56 News headlines

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

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

1 <u>plea</u> <u>pledge</u> .....	5 <u>axe</u> <u>alert</u> .....
2 <u>boost</u> <u>blow</u> .....	6 <u>wreck</u> <u>scheme</u> .....
3 <u>pledge</u> <u>ahead</u> .....	7 <u>scheme</u> <u>cease</u> .....
4 <u>probe</u> <u>vow</u> .....	8 <u>mjnister</u> <u>conspiracy</u> .....

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

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

3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

1 <u>vow</u> .....	a secret plan
2 <u>plea</u> .....	b official plan
3 <u>bid</u> .....	c request
4 <u>conspiracy</u> .....	d explosion
5 <u>blow</u> .....	e investigation
6 <u>alert</u> .....	f promise
7 <u>probe</u> .....	g warning
8 <u>scheme</u> .....	h disappointment
9 <u>blast</u> .....	i agreement
10 <u>deal</u> .....	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 .....

