

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 probe <i>v</i> |
| Mother's plea to kidnappers | a plea (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 ransom) kidnap <i>v</i> |
| Government pledges more aid | pledge formally promise to give or do sth pledge <i>n</i> 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 <i>v</i> axe remove sb from their job; get rid of a service, system, etc: <i>Bus company plans to axe part of rural service.</i> chief 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 | 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 <i>n</i> |
| Bomb blast wrecks factory | (bomb) blast an explosion wreck destroy sth wreck <i>n</i> |
| Boost for voters | boost sth that helps or encourages people boost <i>v</i> |
| 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 <i>formal</i> 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 <i>v</i> |
| 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 <i>the House of Commons</i> , whose members are not elected by the people of the country back give help or support to sb/sth backing <i>n</i> 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*.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 plea <u>pledge</u> | 5 axe <u>alert</u> |
| 2 boost <u>blow</u> | 6 wreck <u>scheme</u> |
| 3 pledge <u>ahead</u> | 7 scheme <u>cease</u> |
| 4 probe <u>vow</u> | 8 minister <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 <u>axes</u> chairman | 6 New deal for manager |
| 3 Doctors given go-ahead for new drug | 7 Boost for farmers |
| 4 Company <u>ceases</u> operations | 8 Army foils criminal plot |

- 3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

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

- 4 Replace the underlined words to create typical headlines.

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

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|---|-------|
| 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