

## Key Words

**funding (n)**

The source of money for a project or company.

*The paper receives funding from various advertisers.*

**robust (adj)**

Complete, strong. *During the interview, the job candidate had problems answering some of the more robust questions.*

**interpretation (n)**

An explanation or a way of explaining. *Will's interpretation of the events differed from mine.*

**guideline (n)**

A general rule/principle. *Journalists must stick to strict guidelines when reporting on crimes committed by minors.*

**polarise (v)**

Divide people by strong beliefs. *Steven avoids the TV news as he thinks it can polarise people rather than inform them.*

**initiate (v)**

Start something, begin. *The city government is getting ready to initiate a new programme to repair the bridges.*

**hamper (v)**

Make sth more difficult, obstruct. *The journalist thought the city government was hampering her investigation into police corruption.*

**journal (n)**

A publication that deals with a specific topic. *Jack worked as an engineer for 15 years; now he writes for an aerospace journal.*

**misleading (adj)**

Giving the wrong idea or impression. *The editor felt the article was a bit misleading and asked the writer to make changes.*

**B.** Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the words in the box below. There are **three** words that you do not need to use.

comb through    beneficial    robust    hassle    exploit    work out    appeal    deceive    hamper

1. A(n) ..... investigation is underway to determine if the journalist broke any privacy laws.

2. Karl was sure the mayor was ..... him in trying to deny the reports of police corruption.

3. Stephanie is working on a series of articles about children being ..... in factories.

4. A good journalist will .... many sources to make sure the information is accurate.

5. The editors were worried that further investigation would be ..... by the city government who wished the matter to be closed.

6. The TV news tries to ..... to as much of the population as possible.

**hunch (n)**

A belief or feeling based on intuition. *Reporters often follow hunches to get to the truth of a story.*

**rapid (adj)**

Very quick, fast.

*The rapid spread of the news online can lead to incorrect stories being taken as fact.*

**hassle (v)**

Harass, annoy, pest. *You may have to hassle public officials to get answers.*

**work out (phr.v)**

Figure out, discover.

*After reading a few other sources, he was able to work out where the mistake in the article was.*

**unravel (v)**

Investigate or solve sth.

*They worked for 3 weeks to unravel the corruption scandal.*

**unreliable (adj)**

Not able to be trusted.

*After I read the third article in the magazine which didn't give the full context of a graph, I knew it was unreliable.*

## Words in Context & Reading Comprehension

You are going to read an article about a career in journalism.

### A Career in Journalism

I remember my father walking out to pick up the newspaper every morning before breakfast. I would watch through the window as he, rain, snow, or shine, would scoop it up and bring it back to the door. He would read the front page and pass me the comics while he had a coffee and I had cereal. As I got older, my father began passing me other sections of the paper, local news, sports, world news; I would first **comb through** the headlines, looking for interesting stories. I had no idea at the time, but this ritual **initiated** my interest in print news and journalism.



As highschool graduation drew closer and closer, I spent some time working out what I wanted to do after receiving my diploma. My father knew an editor of a major newspaper in the city and suggested I talk to her about a parttime position. That summer, I worked down in the **archives**, looking up old articles for journalists who wanted to double check sources. **It was** a bit of a **hassle** in those days because nothing was digital, so I had to go through each story by hand. I'm not exaggerating when I say I went through thousands of old papers looking for specific bits of information. However, this practice proved **beneficial**, as I increased my knowledge of the **archives**, my reading speed, and I also learned to follow **hunches** about how many days apart followup stories might appear, for example.

I spent a year toiling away before I decided I wanted to be working upstairs, writing the stories rather than just doing the **research**. I applied to a college and began to study journalism. Having worked in the business, I found studying to be a relaxing break from the crunch of **deadlines** and the **rapid** calls for older articles to be found. I was a bit frustrated, though, as I felt some of the practices our professors talked about hadn't been reflected in the "real world" in my experience. However, I did learn invaluable information about journalistic **guidelines**, like working on **diverse** sources to get a full picture of the story.

By the time I finished my degree, the world of journalism was changing. Print journalism and the nightly TV news had been providing **content** side by side for nearly half a century, but then the internet, the "information superhighway", entered the scene. On the one hand, there was a lot of promise on the internet as more and more people could access a variety of information. On the other hand, the sources of that information were becoming more and more **unreliable**.

My first position out of college was on the paper's new "internet editorial" team. We worked to **unravel** the truth behind popular stories online. By digging into sources, we could see how one website or another was trying to **deceive** its readers or promote **misleading** studies or surveys. I've been working on the same editorial board for 10 years now and the **circumstances**, I'm sad to say, have not improved. In the struggle for **funding** from advertisers, the so-called "news websites" are running more and more inflammatory pieces, often topped with "clickbait" headlines to draw in readers.

Nowadays, my daughter watches me go for the paper every morning, although most of the people on my street don't seem to have a paper delivered. I read some of the articles aloud to her and we talk about the 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when', and 'why'. She's getting good at identifying bias in the stories, but she still prefers the comics.

**A.** For questions 1-7, choose the answer (A, B or C) which you think fits best according to the text.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer
  - A. says his father was a journalist.
  - B. describes a daily routine.
  - C. compares different sections of the newspaper.
2. After finishing high school, the writer
  - A. applied to college.
  - B. practised his reading skills.
  - C. took a job.
3. The writer thought that college
  - A. taught him some important basic ideas.
  - B. would be easy.
  - C. was less useful than he had expected.
4. According to the writer, the internet
  - A. had pros and cons.
  - B. was too new to be trusted.
  - C. could never replace print and TV news.
5. In the writer's view, news on the internet
  - A. has now improved.
  - B. may get better soon.
  - C. is often misleading.
6. What does 'It' refer to in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 4?
  - A. the writer's diploma
  - B. a major newspaper
  - C. finding articles
7. The phrase 'toiling away' in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph can be replaced by
  - A. working hard.
  - B. reading a lot.
  - C. wasting time.

**B.** Say if the statements 1-5 are true (T) or false (F) using information from the text.

1. The weather affected the delivery of the newspaper. ....
2. The writer did not know what to do after high school. ....
3. The writer's father worked for a newspaper. ....
4. The writer felt some of his professors were teaching unnecessary things. ....
5. The writer is currently unemployed. ....

