

Warm Up. Guess the missing word in these headlines:

1. \$ 50,000- \$85,000 worth pets

What pets cost so much money?

2. TikTok's latest food trend is the _____.

What sweet food is sold out because of social media craze?

3. Disney's 2025 film, _____, a total failure

What film is the news about?

4. _____ Actress has become hugely controversial in the entertainment industry

What actress is at the core of the polemics?

Task 1. Watch the news stories

News 1. Want to clone your dog?

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/want-clone-dog-dont-expect-exact-replica-rcna246942>

News 2. The Dubai Chocolate Craze

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-zaA291bn0> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oG6mTpC2DQ>

News 3. Disney's "Snow White" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDSNtUrdS2Q>

News 4. AI 'Actor' Tilly Norwood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnrHdvfrXrg>

Task 2. Use the Chronological logic Grid to retell the story. For 1B2 students, summaries can also be provided.

News 1. Pet cloning

The Hook (Intro)

Trend: 90% of people say pets improve mental health, leading some to seek clones after a loss .

Celebrity Example: Tom Brady recently cloned his dog Mix Lua to create "Junie".

The Development (Details)

The Science: Companies like Colossal Biosciences use skin or blood cells to create genetic copies via a process similar to IVF.

Limits: While physical traits are identical, the environment still shapes the dog's personality .

The Impact (Conclusion)

Ethical Debate: 60% of Americans find it morally wrong; others cite high failure rates and potential pain for animals .

The Future: High costs (\$50k–\$85k) remain a barrier, while some hope cloning helps save endangered species.

News 2. Dubai chocolate craze

The Hook (Intro)

Sensation: A "Dubai chocolate" movement has taken over TikTok, starting originally in 2021.

The Experience: It is described as a "cultural experience" that transports people to a different place.

The Development (Details)

The Recipe: Famous for its unique texture using creamy pistachio filling and crunchy, toasted phyllo dough.

Craftsmanship: Making the fudge requires careful timing and cooling layers so they do not mix.

The Impact (Conclusion)

Global Reach: Local shops in New Hampshire are selling out of chocolate bars, sundaes, and even vodka martinis.

Verdict: It is seen as more than a trend—it's a way to explore new Middle Eastern flavors.

News 3. Disney's Snow White

The Hook (Intro)

Scaled Back: Disney canceled the typical grand premiere for the live-action remake after intense backlash .

Political Tension: Zegler's "Free Palestine" posts clash with co-star Gal Gadot's passionate defense of Israel .

The Development (Details)

Casting Friction: Backlash over Latina actress Rachel Zegler and her comments calling the 1937 film "dated" .

CGI Dwarfs: Using computer imagery instead of actors with dwarfism drew criticism from Peter Dinklage .

The Impact (Conclusion)

Financial Loss: The film is considered a major failure, with potential losses exceeding \$100 million.

Studio Stance: CEO Bob Iger acknowledges the need to prioritize entertainment while promoting acceptance.

News 4. AI Actor Tilly Norwood, a polemical character

The Hook (Intro)

Debut: Tilly Norwood, an "actor" made entirely of computer code, appears on *Good Morning Britain* .

Fear Factor: Many worry AI will replace humans in advertising, voice-overs, and low-budget dramas.

The Development (Details)

The Argument: Creator Eline Van Der Velden claims AI lowers costs and allows for more TV productions.

The Comparison: The situation is likened to the Industrial Revolution, where machines replaced manual labor.

The Impact (Conclusion)

The Danger: Experts warn that failing to become "AI-literate" is a bigger risk than the tech itself.

Current Limits: Tilly cannot yet perform long, complex scenes; human creativity is still required.

Presenter 1:

"Hello, hello, dear listeners! Welcome to our weekly Buzz News show. I'm [Name], and I'll be your host for today's episode. We have some exciting stories for you, so sit back, relax, and let's get started! The first news story..."

"That was thought-provoking, wasn't it? Now, over to [Presenter 2], who will tell us about [the next story topic]."

Presenter 2:

"Thanks, [Presenter 1]! Alright folks, hold on to your hats, because this next story is about..."

"What a surprising story! Well, I can see [Presenter 3] is itching to take the baton"

Presenter 3:

"That's right, [Presenter 2]! Here's a story about..."

"Incredible stuff, isn't it? Now, let's hear from [Presenter 4], who's got something very interesting about...."

Presenter 4:

"Thanks, [Presenter 3]! Our last news story is..."

"Well, that's all the time we have for today! We hope you enjoyed these stories as much as we did bringing them to you."

"Don't forget to tune in next week for more Buzz News! Until then, stay curious and keep buzzing with us."

Want to clone your dog? Don't expect an exact replica

(1) Summary

Recent studies show that many Americans consider their pets as important as family members. Almost 90% of people say their pets positively affect their mental health. Losing a pet can be very sad, but new technology now allows people to clone their pets, creating a genetic copy.

One famous example is football star Tom Brady. He recently announced that his dog, Junie, is a clone of his previous dog, Mix Lua, who died in 2023. Brady worked with Colossal Biosciences, a biotech company, to create the cloned dog. The CEO of Colossal explained that cloning a dog is similar to IVF, but without sperm. The process produces an identical genetic copy, so the new dog has the same physical traits and many similar behaviors as the original. However, the dog's environment also affects its personality.

Colossal recently bought a company called Viagen, which has been cloning pets for over ten years, including the cats and dogs of celebrities like Barbra Streisand and Paris Hilton. The cloning process can use almost any cell from the original animal, such as skin, hair, or blood. This cell is then used to create the full cloned animal.

While the technology is exciting, it is also controversial. About 60% of Americans think cloning animals is morally wrong. Some experts warn about the ethical challenges and the importance of considering the consequences. Colossal also works on "de-extinction" projects, aiming to bring back extinct species like the woolly mammoth, dodo bird, and Tasmanian tiger. Earlier this year, they even created wolves that resemble the fictional dire-wolves from *Game of Thrones*.

Cloning pets is expensive. According to Viagen, it costs around \$50,000 to clone a cat or dog, \$85,000 for a horse, and more for other species. Viagen clones about 100 pets per year, and prices may change as technology improves.

Some organizations, such as the ASPCA, have expressed concerns and want stricter ethical evaluations of cloning practices. Critics of the cloning process argue that cloned animals are more prone to disease. Studies show that the process has a high failure rate. Animal rights groups like PETA argue the process could be painful for the original animal. Despite these concerns, supporters argue that cloning can help preserve biodiversity and save endangered species.

Cloning pets is now a real option for people who want to "bring back" a beloved animal. However, it is both a personal and controversial choice, with high costs and important ethical questions. As the technology advances, more people may consider cloning, but public debate about its morality and safety continues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oG6mTpC2DQ> (too long)

NH Chronicle: The Dubai Chocolate Craze in the 603

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqp72nZLVFg>

(2) Summary

In recent years, a new chocolate trend has taken over social media, especially TikTok. This trend, called "Dubai chocolate," has become more than just a food item—it's a movement. It started in Dubai in 2021 and has since spread to other parts of the world, including the U.S. Chocolate lovers are not just enjoying chocolate bars anymore—they're exploring unique chocolate creations like fudge, ice cream sundaes, and even cocktails made with Dubai chocolate.

The special thing about Dubai chocolate is its unique ingredients and texture. At Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester, one of the best-selling items is a Dubai-inspired chocolate bar. This bar includes a creamy pistachio filling and toasted phyllo dough, giving it a crunchy, cereal-like texture inside. The mixture of creamy and crunchy makes it different from regular chocolate bars.

The process of making Dubai Swiss fudge involves careful timing. The chocolate is poured in layers, with one layer cooling before the next one is added. This ensures the layers don't mix together. The final product is rich, creamy, and has a unique combination of flavors and textures.

Other businesses are also jumping on the Dubai chocolate craze. At Sunday Drive in Brookline, a local ice cream shop, they made a special Dubai chocolate sundae. The sundae has pistachio cream, hot fudge, chocolate ice cream, fresh strawberries, whipped cream, and the famous crunchy phyllo dough topping. It was so popular that it sold out every time it was featured.

Even in Wilton, a manager at a local bar has created a Dubai chocolate vodka martini or *mocktail*. It combines chocolate liqueur, tahini, and pistachio, with phyllo dough and pistachio on the rim. For Mary Mortimer, the manager, it's exciting to see people in New Hampshire trying flavors from the Middle East, like the ones used in Dubai chocolate.

What makes Dubai chocolate so special is that it's not just about eating—it's about experiencing something new. For many people, taking a bite or a sip of Dubai chocolate feels like being transported to a different place. As one customer said, "It's a feeling when you close your eyes... and it takes you somewhere else."

The Dubai chocolate craze is more than a passing trend—it's become a way to explore new tastes and enjoy an experience that mixes culture, flavor, and fun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDSNtUrdS2Q>

Disney's "Snow White" will be out next week after series of controversies

(3) Summary

Disney's upcoming live-action remake of *Snow White* has faced a series of controversies just days before its release. The film was expected to be a big-budget hit, but Disney has scaled back its typical grand premiere. There's no major red carpet event or promotional blitz, raising questions about why the studio is toning down its marketing.

The film's controversies began as soon as casting was announced. Fans criticized the choice of *West Side Story* actress Rachel Zegler, a Latina, to play the title character of Snow White. Some labeled the casting decision as "woke," [calling something "woke" in this situation is a way of **accusing it of being too focused on promoting diversity or political correctness**] arguing that *Snow White* should be portrayed by a white actress. Zegler also sparked further backlash after apologizing for her past anti-Trump comments online, as well as her remarks about the original 1937 film, which she called "dated."

The controversy didn't stop with casting. The portrayal of the iconic Seven Dwarfs also became a point of contention. Instead of casting actors with dwarfism, filmmakers used CGI (computer generated imagery) to create the characters. This move was criticized by actors with dwarfism, including Peter Dinklage, who questioned why the dwarfs were even included in the story in the first place. Dinklage argued that the filmmakers were being too politically correct and not considering the impact on the community.

On top of that, Zegler's political views have clashed with those of her co-star, Gal Gadot. Zegler has shown support for the "Free Palestine" movement and has posted anti-Trump comments online, while Gadot, who plays the Evil Queen and is Israeli, has passionately defended Israel. This difference in political views added to the drama surrounding the film.

Snow White isn't the first Disney movie to face similar issues. The company previously faced backlash over the casting of Halle Bailey, a Black actress, as Ariel in the 2023 live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*. Despite the controversies, Disney CEO Bob Iger emphasized that the company aims to have a positive impact on culture by promoting acceptance and understanding, but also acknowledged the need to prioritize entertainment first.

Some argue that the controversy might actually help the movie's publicity, with the saying "there's no such thing as bad publicity" being used to describe the situation.

Disney's live-action *Snow White* (2025) is considered a significant financial failure, underperforming at the box office despite a massive budget (estimated \$270M+), leading to potential losses over \$100 million due to poor opening weekend numbers, negative audience buzz, and controversies surrounding lead actress Rachel Zegler's comments and the film's modernized take on the classic story, failing to recoup its huge costs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnrHdvfrXrg>

Creator of AI 'Actor' Tilly Norwood Says She Is Not a Threat to Real Actors

(4) Summary

Controversy arises over the arrival of **Tilly Norwood**, who is presented as the world's first AI actor. Tilly looks and sounds like a real person, but she is completely created using computer code. Her appearance on *Good Morning Britain* caused strong reactions and a lively debate about the future of acting, creativity, and jobs in the entertainment industry.

Tilly introduces herself confidently, saying there is no need to fear her. She explains that her purpose is to tell stories in a new way and to add something fresh to entertainment. However, many people see her as a controversial figure and worry that AI actors could replace real human actors.

The creator of Tilly, **Eline Van Der Velden**, joins the programme to explain her work. She says that AI actors are not a threat to humans. According to her, this technology is a new art form that can help the film and TV industry by lowering costs and allowing more productions to be made. She believes AI can actually help keep people working and create new jobs, rather than destroy them.

The presenters strongly challenge this idea. They argue that companies wanting to save money may choose AI actors and AI voiceovers instead of hiring real performers. From their point of view, AI could slowly replace human workers, especially in areas like advertising, voice acting, and low-budget dramas.

Van Der Velden admits that this is a frightening time and compares the situation to the **Industrial Revolution**, when machines replaced many manual workers. She says change is unavoidable, and ignoring it would only make things worse. Instead, she believes people must learn new skills and work with AI. In her view, the real danger is not AI itself, but failing to become "AI-literate".

She also explains that AI still has many limits. For example, Tilly cannot **yet** perform long, complex scenes. **Van Der Velden** says she has not seen jobs disappearing, but rather a change in the skills people need. She believes Britain is in a strong position to lead in this area if workers are trained properly.

The discussion ends with disagreement but also humour. While some presenters fear a future where humans are replaced, **Van Der Velden** remains optimistic. She argues that AI is a tool created by humans and that meaningful stories still need human creativity to succeed.