

NEWS STORIES & MAKING DECISIONS AS A GROUP

Student handout • Exercises 10–17

10 What makes a good news story? Discuss in pairs. Then compare your views with other students.

A good news story should be ... _____

It should / shouldn't ... _____

One example of a good news story is ... because ... _____

11 6.5 Listen to three students discussing a student news website. Which of the stories below do they choose for the home page? Which one is not discussed?

A Summer festival CANCELLED	B Influencer banned from social media	C 80-year-old grandmother tackles bike thief
D U21 Euros tournament	E Local nurse nominated for special award	F Refugee wins poetry prize

Home-page story: _____ Not discussed: _____

12 6.5 Complete the phrases from the conversation. Then listen and check.

Commenting and suggesting	Restating a point of view	Agreeing on a choice
We ¹ _____ as well ... I ² _____ do that.	In other ³ _____, ... You can ⁴ _____ that again! Hang on a minute; are you ⁵ _____ that ... ?	It ⁶ _____ lots of boxes. Let's ⁷ _____ it.

13 6.6 Put the conversation in the correct order. Then listen and check.

- a ____ Ella Well, it's certainly controversial. It'd be nice to have something educational, though.
- b ____ Ella Yeah, I couldn't believe it! And it was her bike!
- c ____ Grace Yeah, yeah ... I'm just saying that there's already a lot about it in the news and on social media. Not everyone is that interested in it.
- d **1** Ella Which one is it going to be then?
- e ____ Luca But don't you think we should do something about the Euros?
- f ____ Grace Not football again!
- g ____ Luca Well, let's put it this way: it is the most popular sport in the world – everyone loves football, you know.
- h ____ Luca I think the influencer story is pretty compelling.
- i ____ Ella Alternatively, there's that girl who won the poetry prize. We could include her – she's a good role model.
- j ____ Grace Perhaps, although not everyone likes poetry.
- k ____ Grace Actually, I like the grandmother and the bike thief story.
- l ____ Luca OK, so which one should we choose?
- m ____ Grace Let's have a story that's entertaining, humorous and inspirational. Let's go for the grandma and her bike.

14 Study the underlined phrases in the conversation. Add them to the table in exercise 12.

Commenting / suggesting: _____

Restating a point of view: _____

Agreeing on a choice: _____

15 Read the conversation again. Underline more phrases the group use to reach a decision.

GLOBAL SKILLS Making decisions as a group

In a group discussion, listen carefully, allow other people to speak and try not to interrupt them. You can use phrases like *I'm just trying to point out ...* to give your opinion or *Do we all agree that ... ?* and *Let's go for ...* to agree and finalize your decision.

16 In what situations might you discuss things in a group? What do you need to be aware of?

17 SPEAKING ASSESSMENT • DIALOGUE

Making a group decision: Choose the lead story for the school news website

SITUATION

You and your partner are editors of a student news website. Discuss the six stories from Exercise 11 and agree on ONE lead story for the home page. Your decision must be clear and justified. (Choose a partner. Learn a dialogue. **Big mark**)

STUDENT A

- Start the discussion and suggest a story.
- Give at least two reasons for your choice.
- React to your partner's ideas: agree, disagree or ask for clarification.
- Suggest a compromise if necessary.

STUDENT B

- Respond to your partner and suggest another option.
- Give at least two reasons for your choice.
- Ask a follow-up question and develop one of your partner's points.
- Help the pair reach and clearly state the final decision.

PLAN / REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Prepare briefly, then speak with your partner for about 4–5 minutes.
- ✓ Discuss alternatives – do not simply give two separate monologues.
- ✓ Express and justify opinions; react to what your partner says.
- ✓ Use interaction strategies: ask questions, clarify, restate, agree/disagree politely, propose alternatives and negotiate.
- ✓ Reach a shared decision and state it clearly at the end.
- ✓ Aim for B2+ language: varied vocabulary and structures, clear pronunciation, natural pace and coherent ideas.

Suggest / comment	Restate / react	Agree / decide
I think we should ...	I'm just trying to point out ...	Do we all agree that ... ?
What about ... ?	In other words, ...	Let's go for ...
We could also ...	Are you saying that ... ?	So, our final choice is ...

QUICK PREPARATION NOTES

My preferred story + reason: _____

Partner's likely idea / my response: _____

Useful example / argument: _____

Possible compromise / final choice: _____

ASSESSMENT • 15 points

Criterion	What is assessed	Points
Communicative intentions	Proposes ideas, explains and justifies opinions, asks/responds, negotiates and completes the task.	0–5
Interaction and flexibility	Listens and reacts, develops the partner's ideas, takes turns naturally, clarifies/restates, helps reach a shared decision.	0–5
Language resources	Range and accuracy of vocabulary/grammar, appropriate register, intelligible pronunciation and fluency.	0–5

Teacher score: ____ / 15 Feedback: _____

Alignment note: designed for B2+ spoken interaction practice and the NSA VBE speaking assessment logic (dialogue / spoken interaction: 15 points).