

UNIT 3 : THE NEWS AND MEDIA

A. GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

breaking news

bulletin

headlines

interview

news flash

notifications

round-the-clock reporting

scandal

- I don't usually read the newspaper – I just look at the **headlines** to see if anything important has happened.
- I was watching a film on TV when suddenly the film was interrupted by a **news flash**. Apparently, there's a bad storm heading towards our region.
- These days, TV news channels have to provide **round-the-clock reporting**. In other words, they have to report the news 24 hours a day.
- I read a really interesting **interview** with a former politician in yesterday's newspaper. The interviewer asked lots of really difficult questions and the politician didn't know what to say.
- I've got an app on my phone that sends me **notifications** of the most important news stories. I can then click on the link to read the full story.
- That's all for today's programme. The next news **bulletin** is at ten o'clock.
- Now we've got some **breaking news** for you. We've just heard that the prime minister is in hospital after a skiing accident.
- There was a shocking story about a tennis player secretly being paid a lot of money to lose an important match. It's a real **scandal**.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct words to complete the text.

What are the main *opinions / sources / summaries* of news? Where do journalists get their stories from? Well, there's always an element of personal *interviewing / reporting / researching*, i.e. seeing things with your own eyes and describing what you see. In the same way, journalists interview a lot of *articles / reporters / witnesses* to events, to find out what happened from the people who actually saw it happening. Journalists can also find their own news stories, through investigation, where they do a lot of research to

cause / discover / effect something completely new. They can also find out useful information from **account / reaction / social** media sites. It's fair to say that a large number of news stories are provided by businesses and other organisations as press **archives / images / releases**. Organisations also hold press conferences, where a large number of journalists are invited to listen to important **discussions / radion / statements** and then ask questions.

Exercise 3: Complete the sentences. Use the verbs in the box.

comment follow interview release report research stay update

- 1 I'd love to be a TV journalist so I could travel around the world and **stay** on all the big events, as they happen.
- 2 Last month, I tried to **interview** a famous film star about her latest film, but she didn't want to answer any of my questions.
- 3 So, that's all we know at the moment, but we'll **research** you on this breaking news as soon as we have more information.
- 4 I try to **stay** up to date with news and current affairs, so I always watch news programmes on TV.
- 5 Our reporter spent six months trying to **research** the story behind the scandal. You can watch his full report later this evening.
- 6 I don't really **follow** all the latest celebrity news. I don't think it's important to know what famous people are doing all the time.
- 7 Whenever I read an interesting news story online, I always **comment** on it. I think it's important to give my own opinion, not just to read other people's.
- 8 The company says it will **release** a statement shortly to explain why it took this action.

Exercise 4: Answer the questions. Use the phrases in the box.

Business news Editorial section Entertainment news Lifestyle section

Local news Review section Sports news The main story

1 Where could you find news about your favourite sports team?

2 Where could you read stories and advice about things like fashion, cooking and gardening?

3 Where could you find news about music, TV, films, etc.?

4 Where could you find news about finance, economics and companies?

5 Where could you find news about your own town or city?

6 Where could you find the most important news of the day?

7 Where could you read journalists' own opinions and comments about news stories?

8 Where could you find out whether new books, films and music are good or bad?

Exercise 5: Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. It's good to make notes during an interview, then to *make / pick / write* them up afterwards.

2. Why are the newspapers full of bad news? I need some good news to *catch / cheer / turn* me up!

3. I didn't plan to watch the news today, but the first news story was really interesting and *ended / followed / went* up watching the whole programme.

4. I always watch the TV news in the morning, and then I *catch / stay / write* up on the news during the day on my phone.

5. Did you *hear / hold / see* any interesting news from those celebrities you met?

6. Do you really think all those stories are true, or do the newspapers just *cheer / do / make* them up?

B. LISTENING

Exercise 1: Read the information. Then look at the table quickly and decide what type of information you need to listen for. Match the information with the questions. There are more types of information than you need.

In Section 1 of the IELTS Listening test, look quickly at the questions before you listen. This will help you decide what type of conversation you are likely to hear, and what the people want to achieve or find out.

In this type of task, you usually need to listen for nouns: things, people, objects or numbers (for example, dates, times or prices).

Apartment 1

facilities has a (1) that guests can use for free

location lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a (2)

cost (3) €..... per person for one night.

- an event
- a number
- something people do in a hotel
- something people normally pay for
- a number of people
- a place or building

For Question 1, you need to listen for



For Question 2, you need to listen for



For Question 3, you need to listen for



Exercise 2: Read the information. Then listen to two people choosing the best apartment for a trip. Choose the correct words to complete the table. (*Track 3.1*)

The speakers may say more than one thing which could fit in a gap. You need to listen carefully and decide which is the information you need, and which you don't need.

Apartment 1

facilities has a (1) that guests can use for free

location lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a (2)

cost (3) €..... per person for one night.

1 swimming pool gym car park

2 road supermarket restaurant

3 35 42 70

Exercise 3: Listen to the conversation again. Choose the correct options to complete the explanations of why the answers are correct or incorrect. ( Track 3.1)

Facilities: has a (1) that guests can use for free.

The answer is swimming pool because using it is included in the price. The car park and gym **are / aren't** free.

Location: lots of shops nearby, but unfortunately, it's also near a (2)

The answer is restaurant, because the woman mentions some disadvantages of staying near it (*it could be noisy at night*). She doesn't say that being near a **restaurant / road / supermarket** would be a disadvantage. There isn't a **restaurant / road / supermarket** near the apartment.

Cost: (3) €..... per person for one night

The answer is €35 because this is the price per person at the cheapest apartment. The price based on two people staying is **€35 / €42 / €70** and the price per person at another apartment is **€35 / €42 / €70** per person.

Exercise 4: Listen and complete the table. Write ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer. ( Track 3.2)

Beachside Holiday Park			
	facilities	location	cost
Cabin 1 'Economy'	has bedroom for up to 4 people doesn't have its own (1)	near the (2)	£85 per night
Cabin 2 'Family'	bring a (3) for each person	great view of the lake	(4) £..... per night
Cabin 3 'Superior'	can take up to 8 people has its own small (5) outside	close to the office so there might be some (6) at night	£175 per night

Exercise 5: Read the information. Then, complete the chart. Use the phrases in the box.

(Kéo các cụm từ ở trong khung vào nhóm tương ứng)

It will help if you can recognise when the speakers are making suggestions, or agreeing and disagreeing. It will also help if you can understand at what point the speakers arrive at a final decision. For example, if someone says '*Definitely*', then they are agreeing firmly with the other person, and ending the discussion.

I can ...

OK. Good.

I don't think ...

That's a brilliant idea.

Definitely.

I'm not sure ...

If you like, I'll ...

Alright. I see what you mean.

Maybe, but ...

I couldn't agree more.

OK, but ...

It would be good if ...

If we ..., we should ...

I'm afraid ...

How about ...?

Making a suggestion

Showing doubt

Showing agreement

Exercise 6: Listen and choose the correct answers, A, B or C (Track 3.3)

1 Tom and Annie agree that they should start their journey ...

- A on Friday evening.
- B early on Saturday morning.
- C on Saturday afternoon.

2 What do Tom and Annie decide about food?

- A to eat soon after they arrive at the holiday park
- B to look for a café along the route to the holiday park
- C to bring snacks to eat during the trip to the holiday park

3 Annie doesn't want to book a horse ride until she is certain about ...

- A the weather.
- B the times.
- C the prices.

4 Tom and Annie both think that during the holiday their children ...

- A should learn a new skill.
- B must look after each other.
- C could have more independence than usual.

- Read through the questions so you know what kind of thing you need to listen for.
- Listen and pay attention to how the speakers ask for each other's opinions, make suggestions, and agree or disagree.
- Pay special attention to what the speakers finally agree on.
- Go back and choose the best answers, A, B or C.



Exercise 7: Listen and complete the sentences with the words the speakers use to introduce topics, and make and respond to suggestions. (*Track 3.4*)

- 1 _____ we go first thing Saturday morning? Then we won't have to drive in the dark.
- 2 OK, good. So _____ all come round to our house for about nine, we can set off together. And _____ food for the journey?
- 3 That's a _____. Then we can stop off somewhere on the way and eat.
- 4 I mean, it's fine right now, but _____ a possibility it might rain at the weekend. So _____ wait until we get there.
- 5 I'd feel better if you did. But it _____ we could teach them how to make a fire, like dad taught us.
- 6 Definitely. I _____ more.

Exercise 8: Listen and answer questions 1-10 (*Track 3.5*)

Questions 1-6

Complete the notes below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.



The Volunteer Agency

- has recruited **1** people for environmental projects
- project abroad involves doing **2** or going into the rain forest
- major project for dealing with **3** in the countryside
- project for improving conditions for **4**
- **5** projects in urban areas
- some projects do not have any **6**

Questions 7-10

Complete the notes below. Write **ONE WORD** for each answer.

Name of the organisation	Numbers	Example volunteer activity
Wildlife Link	24,000 volunteers	getting information about 7 of wildlife
Wildlife Watch	300 8	doing administrative work
9 Earth	908 projects	Building 10 and walls