News and media ESL lesson plan (A1)

A1 (beginner) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- Do you read or watch the news?
- Where do you get your news?
- When do you check the news?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
news	information about recent events	I watch the news every evening.
newspaper	printed pages with news, usually published every day	My dad buys a newspaper on Sundays.
magazine	a thin book with stories and pictures, published every week or month	I read a sports magazine.
TV	television	What's on TV tonight?
radio	a device or service for listening to programs	I listen to the radio in the car.
program	a show on TV or radio (British English: programme)	It's my favorite program.
website	a place on the internet with pages of information	I read the news on a website.
weather	how hot, cold, sunny or rainy it is	Let's check the weather.
sports	games like football and tennis	I only read the sports pages.
story	a report about an event in the news	It's the main story today.

Grammar focus (10 min): Passive: present and past simple

A group visits the Brightwell chocolate factory. The guide says: “This factory was built in 1890. Today, more than a million bars are made here every week. The cocoa beans are grown in Ghana.” By the end of this lesson you can describe processes and history with the passive.

Form	Pattern	Example
Present	am / is / are + participle	Chocolate is made from cocoa.
Past	was / were + participle	The factory was built in 1890.
By	by + who did it	It was painted by Picasso.
Why?	the thing is the topic	My bike was stolen.

Watch for: ~~The castle built in 1300.~~ → **The castle was built in 1300.**. Passive needs be.

Speaking (15 min): The one-minute bulletin

The learner prepares three headlines from this week (real or invented) and presents them like a newsreader, one sentence of detail for each. You ask Who said that? for each story so they report a source.

Useful language

- I read that... / They said that...
- It was reported that...
- It’s biased. / It’s reliable.
- According to...
- a headline · a source · a reporter · coverage
- Apparently... / It seems that...

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about news and media using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A1 news and media vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 21 words.

News and media (A1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

read · photo · important · Listen · bad news · today · watch · good news

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. _____! It's the news.
2. I'm afraid it's _____.
3. We _____ the news at dinner.
4. What's in the news _____?
5. I _____ the news on my phone.
6. I have some _____!
7. There's a big _____ on the front page.
8. This is very _____ news.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Do you prefer TV, radio or your phone?
2. What kind of news do you like: sport, culture, politics?
3. Do you read news in English?
4. Do you listen to podcasts?
5. What happened in your city this week?

Write

Write 80–120 words about news and media. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 Listen · 2 bad news · 3 watch · 4 today · 5 read · 6 good news · 7 photo · 8 important