News and media ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 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)

- Tell me about a news story that caught your attention recently.
- How do you know whether a story is true?
- Do you ever avoid the news? Why?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

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

Word	Meaning	Example
the media	TV, radio, newspapers and the internet as a group	The media has a lot of power.
the press	newspapers and journalists	The press was not allowed in.
breaking news	news about something that is happening right now	Here's some breaking news from Madrid.
current affairs	important political and social events happening now	I watch a current affairs program on Sundays.
broadcast	to send out a program on TV or radio	The interview was broadcast live.
coverage	the way the news reports an event	The coverage of the election was fair.
source	a person or place that gives information	Always check your sources.
biased	unfairly supporting one side	The newspaper is very biased.
reliable	able to be trusted	Is this website reliable?
tabloid	a newspaper with short stories and lots of celebrity news	The tabloids love a scandal.

Grammar focus (10 min): Reported speech: statements

In the morning meeting, the boss said: “The company is doing well. We will open a new office in Dublin.” At lunch, Sara tells her colleague: “The boss said the company was doing well. She told us they would open a new office in Dublin!” By the end of this lesson you can report what people said.

Form	Pattern	Example
Say / tell	say (that)… · tell + person (that)…	She said she was tired. She told me she was tired.
Backshift	is → was · will → would · can → could · has done → had done	He said he would call.
Pronouns	I → he / she · my → his / her	“My car” → his car
Time / place	tomorrow → the next day · here → there	She said she’d come the next day.

Watch for: ~~She said me that she was tired.~~ → **She told me that she was tired. / She said that she was tired.**. Say something, tell someone.

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 B1 news and media vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

News and media (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

censorship · editor · scandal · viewers · press conference · Freedom of speech · rumor · exclusive

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. The paper got an _____ interview.
2. The _____ ended his career.
3. The _____ decided to publish the story.
4. The show has ten million _____.
5. It's just a _____.
6. The minister held a _____.
7. _____ is a basic right.
8. There's a lot of _____ in that country.

C. Talk with a partner

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

1. What was the biggest news event you remember from your childhood?
2. Do you talk about the news with family or friends?
3. Has a news story ever made you change a habit?
4. What kind of story gets too much attention?
5. Do you trust local news more than national news?

Write

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

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 exclusive · 2 scandal · 3 editor · 4 viewers · 5 rumor · 6 press conference · 7 Freedom of speech · 8 censorship