News and media ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper 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
sensationalism	presenting news in a shocking way to get attention	The paper is known for its sensationalism.
media literacy	the ability to judge information in the media critically	Schools should teach media literacy.
impartial	not supporting any side	The BBC must be impartial.
objective	based on facts, not feelings	Journalists should be objective.
propaganda	false or one-sided information used to influence people	The film was pure propaganda.
spin	presenting information in a way that helps you	The government put a positive spin on the figures.
whistleblower	a person who reveals wrongdoing inside an organization	The whistleblower lost her job.
investigative journalism	reporting that discovers hidden facts after long research	Investigative journalism exposed the scandal.
leak	to give secret information to the media	Someone leaked the report to the press.
libel	writing false things that damage someone's reputation	He sued the paper for libel.

Grammar focus (10 min): Passive reporting: it is said that, he is believed to

A newspaper article: “It is said that the small island of Elm Rock is haunted. A pirate is believed to have hidden treasure there in 1720, and strange lights are reported to appear every full moon.” By the end of this lesson you can report information formally, as in the news.

Form	Pattern	Example
It pattern	It is said / believed / reported that + clause	It is said that the island is haunted.
Subject pattern	subject + is said to + base form / to be -ing	The island is said to be haunted.
Past	is said to have + participle	He is believed to have left.
There	There is said / thought to be	There is said to be treasure.

Watch for: ~~He is said that he is very rich.~~ → **He is said to be very rich. / It is said that he is very rich.**. Don’t mix the two patterns.

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 B2 news and media vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

News and media (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

hit the headlines · paparazzi · sound bite · mainstream media · fact-check · newsworthy · tabloid journalism · made headlines

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. The scandal _____ around the world.
2. Many young people don't trust the _____.
3. Politicians love a good _____.
4. Always _____ before you share.
5. The company _____ last year.
6. He hates _____.
7. The _____ followed her everywhere.
8. Is that really _____?

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 made headlines · 2 mainstream media · 3 sound bite · 4 fact-check · 5 hit the headlines · 6 tabloid journalism · 7 paparazzi · 8 newsworthy