

## Looking at Newspapers

### Teaching Notes

This set of resources (including a separate PowerPoint (PPT) – also available on [skillsworkshop.org](http://www.skillsworkshop.org/)) was first used with a mixed level group of learners ranging in ability from E1 (Entry Level 1) to L2 (Level 2), including several teenagers.

As far as possible, I try to choose topics that are accessible by all. The idea was to look at newspapers and the way that stories are written.

The lesson started with students writing for 5 minutes about whether or not they used newspapers (see separate PowerPoint presentation). The less able learners discussed it with a TA (teaching assistant). We then had a group discussion about whether newspapers were something that was still useful in today's world when we can get information from many other sources.

After that I showed them the '5Ws and an H' on the PPT and read them the Kipling poem. (I am always trying to make 'proper' or 'posh' books and poems real to people who think they are 'not my sort of thing'. This example was great because I was able to talk about the fact that Disney's Jungle book was based on a Kipling story and prove my point!)

The students then had to choose a story from a selection of newspapers and work out the answers to the questions filling in the accompanying sheet (see page 3). The E1 learners had to match a selection of pictures to texts and headlines and discuss whether all three things were equally important in telling the story.

I then asked all the learners to summarise their story into a comic strip of three frames including the answers to 5 Ws and an H (see PPT). The Level 1 and 2 learners had to ensure that they had included speech marks in the dialogue.

After that we discussed the way that images can give context to a story. Although there were a few grumbles about having to draw the comic strip it really made the learners think about summarising – and they all achieved it.

The E1 learners had a quiz about their local paper to encourage them to use it to find certain information (see my ideas on page 2 – although the quiz can obviously not be used by anyone unless they have a copy of the Torquay Herald Express, 15th June 2009!)

Each student then had to decide on a topic that he or she was prepared to be interviewed about. (I did this rather than choosing a specific topic such as 'your happiest moment' so that people would be happy to be open about something and the interviewer would not be prying). Once everyone was paired up they told their partner what they would talk about and then individually planned their questions using the 5 Ws and an H format (see page 4). They took it in turns to interview and take notes, and then had to write up their story using the criteria on the PPT. As people finished they then had to check definitions of the 'technical terms' (see PPT) in the dictionary.

After the E1 learners had finished their quiz they were given the task of interviewing me (alternatively, they too could have paired up) again using the sheet on page 4 as a guide. Such learners sometimes lack imagination but the novelty of being able to ask me anything was irresistible (and I thought I could always lie if necessary)! They wrote the key points from my answers on the sheet.

Any L2 learners who had completed the task were then prompted to start working through the SCOOP activities from the DfES learner materials at level 2.

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Covers many aspects of reading, writing and discussion (all levels).

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### Useful references

I KEEP six honest serving-men  
(They taught me all I knew);  
Their names are What and Why and When  
And How and Where and Who.

[http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems\\_serving.htm](http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems_serving.htm)

SCOOP activities (Skills for Life Learner Materials)  
Scroll down and select Level 2 – Unit 3

<http://rwp.excellencegateway.org.uk/readwriteplus/LearningMaterialsLiteracy>

### Newspaper Quiz

*Please note this is a sample only (see page 1 for details) – to be adapted for your own local newspaper.*

- 1) What is the main headline on the front page?
- 2) Look on page 4, who is 7 today?
- 3) Look on page 6. Why is land going to be sold?
- 4) On page 9, what is the name of the person in the middle of the row of photos?
- 5) Why is there a picture of a baby on page 10?
- 6) Look at the TV pages on page 20 and 21. what could I watch at 9pm tonight on BBC 1?
- 7) Look in the Babbacombe Festival section (near the TV pages). On which page is there a picture of someone dressed up as a parrot?
- 8) How much did the paper cost?
- 9) On the back page there is someone wearing a Torquay United shirt. Who is it?
- 10) I would like to buy an orange van. If I looked on page 33 is there one for sale? What type of van is it?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5 Ws (and an H)

The headline is \_\_\_\_\_ .

<b>Who?</b> Who was involved?	
<b>What?</b> What happened? (What's the story?)	
<b>When?</b> When did it take place?	
<b>Where?</b> Where did it take place?	
<b>Why?</b> Why did it happen?	
<b>How?</b> How did it happen?	

Did the article answer the 5 Ws and an H in the lead?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5 Ws (and an H)

Things I want to ask \_\_\_\_\_ .

<b>What is the question?</b>	<b>What is the answer?</b>
Who?	
What?	
When?	
Where	
Why?	
How?	