

Live Lesson Notes

The News

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What you will learn

Useful Links

Vocabulary

Guest conversation

Idioms

Some useful Links

Brick's Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQeS430YP-RVm4AZOnd9q9Q>

English learning website based on news articles

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/>

BBC website based on the news

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/lingohack>

New Yorker magazine, great for **advanced learners**

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/03/29/is-the-pandemic-breaking-our-backs>

American news channel for students of English

<https://edition.cnn.com/cnn10>

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IELTS Vocabulary News

News (n.) uncountable

Here is **some** news - I have **a lot of** news

A **piece of** news (countable)

A journalist (n. person)

Journalism (n.)

A **correspondent** (n. person) = *a person who reports news for a media outlet*

The following are all people who present the news on TV

- A news anchor
- A news host
- A news presenter

To **cover** a story = *to report (on) a story*

The **press** (n.) uncountable = *The **media***

Is the British press biased?

A **tabloid** (n.) = *a less serious newspaper, more sensationalist*

"The Sun" is a tabloid

The **paparazzi** (n. Pl.) = *news photographers (negative)*

Collocations

News flash = *a quick piece news*

Breaking news = *the latest piece of news*

News coverage

*The BBC **covered** this story in a lot of detail, their **coverage** (n.) was really good.*

IELTS Conversation

The following are some of the questions that I discussed with Brick, today's guest, and some useful phrases we used and you can use to talk about this topic.

Do you follow the news? Why?

I follow the news **quite a lot**, especially with **what is going on** in the world right now.

The **stats** about the virus = *statistics*

I like to **keep on top of** things / the news = *keep up to date with the news*

The government have **handled** the **vaccine roll out** really well

I like to keep (myself) **in the loop** = *to keep up to date*

How do you get your news?

I **get** all my information **from** my phone

I **access newspaper applications** on my phone

If I am on a long drive, I **will listen to podcasts**

Every now and again, I **dip into** the Guardian news app = *have a quick look at*

To keep up to date, I read the Gulf News

I've never **come across** any tabloids here = *never found*

Will the way we get news change in the future?

Yes, it will for sure, and **here's the reason why...**

In the past, people had to read the whole newspaper to find the information they wanted...

Now **fast track 10 years**, we can search for any piece of news easily = *come forward to today*

A decade ago **you would have had to** read the whole paper to find one **news item**

If things go along this way.... = *if things continue like this*

More useful phrases from our conversation:

The weather is **picking up** = *getting better*

I have been **dabbling into** Arabic = *early stages of trying*

I have **dabbled in** Spanish cooking = *try something for maybe the first time*

Fake news = *false*

Authentic news = *real*

Cross reference the news = *check different sources*

Keeping up to date with the news

Yes, it helps us **stay in touch** with what's going on in the world.

Yes, we need to know what's happening locally and internationally, **in case** some news **affects us directly**, such as new regulations around COVID

Yes, it helps us **keep in the loop** with recent events.

It can be important to know **what's going on** in the world, so we can **participate in conversations** on **breaking news**.

I think it is **crucial** to **be up to date** with the latest news so you are better **aware of** what is happening around the world

If I **keep up to date** with **current affairs**, I can talk more confidently with friends and colleagues about these **issues**

Yes, otherwise, we will **be in the dark** about key events happening around us.

Yes, in this **ever-changing world** we need to **keep ourselves abreast of** what's going on around us and in the world via the news

Idioms to talk about The News

To **give the low-down** = *to give all the details about a piece of news*

By **word of mouth** = *to spread news by telling other people about it*

I heard it **by word of mouth** = *Someone else told me about it*

To hear about it **through/on the grapevine** = *to hear something from another person (not the original source)*

These 3 phrases all mean to keep someone up to date with the news

- **Keep someone posted**
- **Keep someone in the loop**
- **Keep someone informed**

To **break the news to** someone = *(negative news) to tell someone the news*

Students' Questions about News

Keith, tell us about a time when you received some bad news

So, I'd like to tell you about the time I got some bad news and it was when I booked a hotel for a holiday, but **it had to be cancelled**.

So, this **is going back** probably a month ago, maybe two months ago and during the time of the **pandemic**, there have been a lot of **confinements** and **lockdowns** and recently in my country the lockdown finished.

This was about two months ago. So, we were able to go out again and so my family and I **booked a couple of nights in a hotel**, in a different city and we were really looking forward to it.

It was something that we were so excited about because we had been **cooped up** (=stuck in a small place) in our homes for such a long time, without the ability to go out, **breathe in fresh air**, and **enjoy socialising**.

So, we got excited about this trip to the hotel, but the day before the government announced that we were not allowed to leave the province that we were in and **the hotel that we had booked** was in a different province.

So, legally we couldn't go. We were **in a bit of dilemma** (=facing a difficult decision), you know, should we break the law and go, or not go, and in the end we had to cancel the hotel.

I **got in touch with** them and said it's gonna be impossible for us to come. Luckily, we could **get our money back** because there was a policy, a return or a **refund policy**.

They gave us our money back but we felt **devastated** (=very unhappy). We were really annoyed and frustrated because **we had been so looking forward to** this break and in the end we just had to **give it up** and stay at home.