

Unit 14

Getting started

- What do we mean by news?
- What is in the news this week?
- What do you know about (current main news items)?
- What will happen next?
- Where do you get your news?
- How do you get your news?

Skills

- How can you find news?
- How can you find news online?
- Using a newspaper/smart phone: What's the weather forecast for tomorrow?

The local area

- What is happening locally this week?
- When/where can you see local news on UK television?

Around the UK

- What is happening around the UK this week?
- What was the big UK news this year/last year?
- Do you know the names of any UK newspapers? What are the differences?
- What are the TV channels?
- Which ones have news?

Around the world

- What is happening around the world this week?
- How does news compare in places around the world?
- What is fake news?
- How can you spot fake news?

Staying safe

- What do you know about fake news?
- Can you tell us a fake news story?

What's new?



Useful apps and websites

- www.bbc.co.uk regional, national and international.
- www.inyourarea.co.uk local news, including crime statistics.

Taking the topic further

- Would you like to set up or be part of a WhatsApp group?
- Is there a local TV or radio station you can visit?

Social / Community

- How do you find out or share news with friends and people you know?
- How can you influence the news?
- How can you get on the news?
- How can you get your voice heard?

Our rights and responsibilities

- Should newspapers be allowed to make stories up?
- Should we be able to say exactly what we want?

Personal view

- Have you got any news?
- Is the news too negative? Is it always bad news?
- Newspaper/apps: Find an interesting article and tell the group about it.
- Which UK TV news do you like?
- What news do you trust?
- What would you do if you were Prime Minister for the day?

What's new?

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Introduction to the topic

Participants can lead this topic in many different directions, depending on their interests and levels of English. It is a chance for them to share their own news as well as talk about what is in the news. They may have very different habits and ways of accessing news, and some may not typically access news in English. In general, stories with a human-interest element are most likely to engage everyone.

Session ideas at a glance

Welcome	If required, participants sign in or you record attendance on a register.
Opening chat / circle time	Introductions for anyone new. General chatting. Anything to follow up or report back on from the previous session? Any news from anyone?
Getting started	<p>Ask if any participants have any personal news they would like to share.</p> <p>Then choose one or more warm up activities linked to the topic. See next page for ideas on: What's the story? and Tic tac toe.</p> <p>Ask some questions to get the conversation started and find out which aspects of the topic participants are most interested in talking about. (See mind map and next page for ideas).</p>
Conversations	<p>Plan to have 2 or 3 main conversations linked to the topic, possibly with supporting activities. See next page for ideas on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staying safe: Fake news <p>If you have a large group and participants divide into small groups or pairs for each activity/conversation, finish each of these with the whole group reporting back and maybe discussing their ideas further together.</p>
Closing chat/ circle time	<p>Feedback about today's topic and conversations.</p> <p>Discuss any ideas for any follow up action or research for taking the topic further, e.g. discussing the topic more, visiting a local TV or radio station, inviting a speaker from the media in.</p> <p>Share ideas and agree the main topic for the next session.</p> <p>Any reminders or important dates/events coming up?</p>

Level of English: This unit is best for higher levels, although activities can be adapted. Lower level participants can do a simplified version of **Tic tac toe** (e.g. speaking for only 10 or 20 seconds and doing it more collaboratively). The **Fake news** headlines and pictures can be used without the extension questions, especially if participants are able to help each other with the language.

Things to consider: Be sensitive around topics covering war and refugees. If individuals want to talk about issues affecting themselves or their families, they will do so but don't ask direct questions.

Think about how you will respond if participants have very different views about fake news items.

Getting started: What's the story?

Resources and preparation: Prepare some current pictures, e.g. from newspapers, printed from the internet, saved on a phone, tablet, etc. Be prepared to help with new vocabulary.

Print the question words for each group/pair. (Alternatively, you can write them on a flipchart.)

Ask participants in the session beforehand to bring pictures themselves – and make sure everyone knows how to do a screenshot on their smartphone (this usually involves pressing two buttons and will save any picture to the photos app for easy retrieval).

- Give a printout with the six question words or write them on a flipchart.
- Demonstrate the activity by showing the group one headline and picture from the news. Invite participants to ask questions to find out more about the story using the question words. Anyone can ask and answer the questions.
- Depending on the size of the group, if necessary, split into pairs/smaller groups. Give each group a supply of current headlines and pictures to continue the activity.
- Come back together as a whole group. Invite participants to share anything interesting they learned, and to discuss the news stories in more detail or to talk about the current news stories they feel are important or interesting.
- Participants can also use the question prompts to ask each other about personal news that they are happy to share.

Who ...?

What ...?

When ...?

Where ...?

Why ...?

How ...?

Getting started: Tic tac toe

Resources and preparation: Print the tic tac toe grid and instructions.

- Explain the instructions:
 - You can play in pairs or with two teams of two. Each team needs to decide if they are going to use X or O.
 - Flip a coin to decide who goes first.
 - Choose a box and speak for 30 seconds non-stop on a news item relating to the topic. You cannot repeat the same information.
 - If you are successful, you can mark the box with your team's symbol: X or O.
 - Continue until one side can draw a straight line through 3 of their symbols - or until there are no more moves.
- Ask a confident participant to select a box and demonstrate to the group as a practice run.
- Come back together and discuss further, e.g. which news stories participants chose to speak about, any others which could have been covered for each category, which they feel strongly about, which affect them directly (if any), any they would like to follow up or find out more about.



Staying safe: Fake news

Resources and preparation: Project, display or print the fake news headline.

- Project or hand out the fake news pictures and headline. Ask participants to discuss this headline together.
- Ask if the story is true. Have a discussion about what 'Fake news' means as a whole group and some different ways to spot or check a story, e.g. *Is the source of story reliable? Do you know who wrote it? Is it a joke?* etc.
- This can lead into a wider discussion, in small groups or the whole group, about fake news stories people know about, what the story was, what happened, and whether anything happened or changed because of the fake news story.
- Finish by playing 'Two truths and one lie'. In groups of up to five, each participant takes turns to say three things about themselves, two things must be true, and one must be a lie, e.g. *I can stand on my head. I can speak Russian. I found £50 on the pavement.* Everyone else has to guess which is the lie. You can demonstrate by going first. This usually leads to a lot of follow up questions and laughter.

Who ...?

What ...?

When ...?

Where ...?

Why ...?

How ...?

Getting started: Tic tac toe

music, fashion or celebrity news	health news item	UK news or politics item
technology news item	local news (town, region)	neighbourhood news item
weather item	international news item	natural disaster or environmental news item



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What's new?

Staying safe: Fake news

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The spaghetti harvest takes place in April every year.

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