

THE NEWS

Headlines	Meaning
Arms deal probe	arms FML weapons, especially those used by the armed forces. deal an agreement, especially in business. probe an investigation into sth. probe v.
Mother's plea to kidnappers	plea FML an urgent and emotional request. kidnapper a person who takes sb away illegally and keeps them as a prisoner, usually in order to get money (called a ransom). kidnapping n. kidnap v, n.
Ten-hour ordeal for tourists	ordeal a difficult or unpleasant experience.
Senate urges caution	senate (in the USA and some other countries) one of the two groups of elected politicians; the politicians are called senators . urge sth forcefully recommend sth (also urge sb to do sth).
Bid to oust rail chief	bid an attempt. bid v. oust (sb out of sth) force sb out of a job or position. chief (often used in job titles) the most important or one of the most important people in a company or an organization (police chief).
Minister vows to quit	minister a senior member of a government. vow make a formal and serious promise to do sth. vow n.
Bomb blast wrecks factory	blast an explosion (bomb blast). wreck sth destroy or badly damage sth.
Boost for voters	boost a thing that helps or encourages sth. boost v.
Go-ahead for road scheme	go-ahead (usually the go-ahead) formal permission to do sth. scheme an official plan.

IMG cease trading	cease FML stop happening or existing. cease sth stop doing sth.
Measures to curb inflation	curb sth limit or control sth.
Politician in death riddle	riddle a mystery (often a problem that is difficult to solve).
Doctor cleared of negligence	clear sb (of sth) prove that sb is innocent of doing sth wrong.
Injury blow for United	blow bad news (when something unfortunate has happened).
New flood alert	alert a warning.
Talks on brink of collapse	If sth is on the brink of happening, it has reached a point where it is about to happen (often sth very bad).
PM rules out referendum	rule sth out reject the possibility of sth.
Valuable gems stolen	gems jewellery.

1 Good news or bad news for the people in the headlines? Write G or B.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Minister quits under pressure _____ | 5 Owner sees home wrecked _____ |
| 2 Company ousts chairman _____ | 6 New deal for manager _____ |
| 3 Go-ahead for doctors _____ | 7 Boost for farmers _____ |
| 4 Ordeal for parents _____ | 8 Further blow for house buyers _____ |

2 Match the headline words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 vow | a jewellery _____ |
| 2 plea | b stop _____ |
| 3 bid | c request _____ |
| 4 cease | d warning _____ |
| 5 gems | e investigation _____ |
| 6 riddle | f promise _____ |
| 7 blow | g attempt _____ |
| 8 probe | h bad news _____ |
| 9 alert | i reject _____ |
| 10 rule out | j mystery _____ |

3 Replace the underlined words to create typical headlines.

- Senators reject the possibility of more aid _____ Senators rule out more aid _____
- New weapons agreement _____
 - Explosion destroys fire station _____
 - Permission for official rail plan _____
 - Company managing director forced from his job _____
 - Encouragement for big banks _____
 - Senior members of government to restrict spending _____
 - Men who took child demand money for her return _____
 - Government strongly advises delay _____

- 9 Motorcyclist found innocent of child's death _____
 10 Firm in serious danger of closure _____

4 Write your own headlines for these news stories (maximum seven words per headline).

- There are new warnings about the dangers of certain food.
 NEW FOOD ALERT

- 1 An explosion has destroyed a new shopping centre.
- 2 The police have rejected the possibility of a new investigation into the murder.
- 3 The Prime Minister has promised that he will restrict the amount of money that the government will spend.
- 4 Senior members of the government are planning a new attempt to force the Prime Minister to resign.
- 5 There is a mystery surrounding the theft of valuable jewellery.

A Common words in news reports

Amid further allegations of a **cover-up**, **sources** at the Home Office refused to comment on claims of a serious **lapse** in security at a nuclear power station.

Discussions about **controversial** new **measures** to control anti-social behaviour are continuing **behind the scenes**.

According to figures from a recent **opinion poll**, the government's popularity is falling.

It **emerged** yesterday that the contents of a **scathing** report on Barkfield Hospital have already been **leaked** to the press. The report **quotes** a senior doctor **as saying that ...**

Glossary

amid (or amidst) sth	while sth else is happening.	behind the scenes	without people's awareness or knowledge (behind closed doors = in private, not in public).
allegation	a statement, without proof, that sb has done sth wrong.	according to	used for saying where ideas or information have come from.
cover-up	allege v. an attempt to stop people discovering the truth about sth. cover sth up v.	(opinion) poll	a process of asking people for their opinion about sth.
source	OFTEN PL a person who provides information, especially for journalists.	emerge	(of facts, information, etc.) become known. emergence N.
lapse	a small mistake caused by forgetting sth or carelessness.	scathing	strongly critical (scathing attack/remark).
controversial	causing angry discussion and disagreement. controversy N.	leak sth to sb	give secret information to journalists or the public. leak N.
measure	an official action taken in order to achieve sth.	quote sb	repeat the exact words that sb said (quote sb as saying that ...).

1 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 How do you know about this? ~ It was in a recent _____ poll.
- 2 How did the man get into the palace? ~ It was a _____ in security apparently.
- 3 When did they discover this news? ~ It _____ last night.
- 4 Are these talks in public? ~ No, it's all behind closed _____.
- 5 Do many people disagree with it? ~ Yes, it's a very _____ idea.
- 6 Was she strongly criticized? ~ Yes, it was a _____ attack.
- 7 Is there proof the man stole it? ~ No, it's just an _____ someone made.
- 8 Is this information accurate? ~ _____ to *The Times*, it is.

2 Complete the text with suitable words.

(1) _____ continuing pressure on the government, information has been (2) _____ to the press of a plan to (3) _____ up the fact that Britain cannot meet the European Union's renewable energy targets. (4) _____ to reliable (5) _____ inside Whitehall, officials have informed the government of this fact, and one expert was (6) _____ as saying that Britain might only reach 9 per cent by 2020. Meanwhile, discussions are continuing behind the (7) _____ to see what (8) _____ can be taken to reach the target.

B Figurative language in news reports 🎧

Words connected with *water*, *fire*, *war*, and *sport* are often used figuratively in news reports. For example, if two people are **locked in battle**, it doesn't mean they are literally fighting, but that they are involved in a competition or struggle, e.g. a **legal battle**. These expressions are also called **metaphors**.

Example	Meaning	
WATER	There is certain to be a storm of protest over the new legislation.	a situation in which a large number of people express strong feelings against sth.
	Refugees are flooding into the country.	appearing in large numbers at the same time.
	Some people believe the tide is now turning in the government's favour.	the situation and public opinion are changing.
	The opposition has dismissed the money as a drop in the ocean .	a very small amount compared with what is needed.
FIRE	Police fear the arrest of the two youths could spark further trouble.	cause sth to start or develop.
	The ministers have had a blazing row .	a very angry argument.
WAR	The headteacher has come under attack .	been strongly criticized. SYN come under fire .
	The Board of Directors could be next in the firing line .	in a position in which people can criticize and blame you.
SPORT	The minister has got himself into a tight corner .	a difficult situation.
	MPs are now accusing the government of moving the goalposts .	INF unfairly changing the agreed rules or conditions during a course of action.
	There have been accusations of foul play .	behaviour that is unfair or dishonest.
	Trade Union leaders claim they just want a level playing field .	a situation in which everyone has the same opportunities.

3 Cross out the incorrect word in each sentence and write the correct word at the end.

- The Prime Minister could be in the shooting line. _____
- We sent some money but it's still only a drip in the ocean. _____
- There was a thunderstorm of protest. _____
- It was an uphill struggle but I think the wave has turned. _____
- Tourists are now raining into the town to see the festival. _____
- They are demanding a flat playing field. _____
- They're upset that the officials keep moving the goalkeeper. _____
- The problem is that she has got herself in a very tight bend. _____
- The producer resigned after a burning row with the director. _____

4 Complete the sentences.

- The Prime Minister has come _____ for his handling of the affair.
- A vicious attack on two young boys nearly _____ a riot earlier this month.
- The takeover was rather suspicious; I think most people suspect _____.
- They expected a _____ protest when they banned smoking in public places.
- He's made too many mistakes, so now he's got himself in a very _____.
- They desperately need aid, but this gift of cash is still only a _____ in the _____.