

3.3 News Analysis



Many people believe that all that is printed on paper must be true and reliable. But we also come across bits of information or news items that do not match, or do not tally with facts, our own experiences, ideas, etc. It is necessary to think well and carefully about what we read or hear before we form our opinion. Of course, you must do it with an open mind.

- with feeling : in a way that shows how they feel about it – angry, happy, etc.
- authorities : people who are in control.
- eye witness : An eye witness is someone who has seen something with his / her own eyes.
- account : report, story

You may have heard phrases like ‘breaking’ news etc. What other adjectives do people use for news?

Warming up!



Do you read newspapers every day? Do you listen to the news bulletins on radio or TV? You may have seen your elders or friends reading news items and discussing them with feeling.

Do you think about the news that you read or hear? If a piece of news makes you happy, you will say it is **good** news. If it makes you angry or sad, you will say it is **bad** news.

You may find some news items **interesting** and some others **uninteresting** or even **boring**.

You also have to consider whether a piece of news is **reliable** or **unreliable**. Many news items have phrases like ‘according to our sources’, ‘authorities say that’, ‘an eye witness account’, etc. to convince the readers or viewers that the news is reliable. Or the reporter may simply say ‘It is learnt that....’. ‘It has come to light that.....’, etc.

Read the news items given in (a), (b), (c) and (d). You may have heard phrases like ‘breaking news’, ‘shocking news’, etc. In what other ways can we describe a piece of news? Suggest suitable adjectives. Then form groups of four or five and discuss the questions given with each piece of news.

NEWS ANALYSIS

(a)

CLOSED SHOES NOT ALLOWED IN EXAMINATION HALLS

Bengaluru : Shivam Institute of Innovative Technology, Bengaluru has recently issued a list of DO's and DON'Ts for candidates taking the Entrance Test to the prestigious institute this year.

The candidates will not be allowed to enter the examination hall

wearing closed shoes, boots, even socks. Other items which will not be allowed inside include mobile phones, microphones, earplugs, calculators and other electronic gadgets, pouches, printed or blank papers and even pens. The pens will be provided in the hall by the invigilators.

1. What is the meaning of 'issued', 'candidates' and 'invigilators'?
2. Who is conducting the test?
3. Discuss the following in groups of four or five :
 - (a) Why is closed footwear (shoes, socks) not allowed in the examination hall?
 - (b) Why has the institute not allowed electronic gadgets in the hall?
 - (c) What other measures can be taken to prevent 'copy'?
4. Why is this news published in newspapers?

(b)

RITIKA TAKES A BREAK FROM ACTING

Mumbai, Sept.9 : Famous actress Ritika who is believed to be the most highly paid star in Bollywood is all set to break the hearts of her fans. In an informal chat with journalists, she revealed that she will not sign any

more films, after completing the big-budget movie 'Ant' next month. She refused to give any reasons for her decision. However, sources close to her reveal that now she wants to make a career in politics.

1. Guess the meaning of 'most highly paid', 'revealed', 'sign films'.
2. What words are used for the following in the news item :
 - (a) Film Industry
 - (b) Something on which a lot of money is spent.
3. Guess why 'Ant' is a big-budget movie.
4. Can you think of other reasons for Ritika's decision?
5. What will be Ritika's reaction to this news?

MOST DANGEROUS TIME IN HISTORY



London : The famous physics professor Stephen Hawking has warned that mankind is facing the most dangerous time in its history today. He said that the world today is facing huge challenges like climate change, overpopulation, epidemic diseases. 'We have the technology to destroy the planet on which we live and have not yet developed the ability to escape it. Perhaps in a few hundred years from now, we will have built colonies amid the stars, but right now, we have only one planet and we need to work together to protect it.' Hawking wrote recently in the Guardian newspaper.

(c)

1. Guess the meaning of 'mankind'.
2. Which words or phrases in the news refer to the earth?
3. Which of the following problems do you believe is the most serious?

- (a) climate change
- (b) overpopulation
- (c) epidemic diseases.

Discuss this in groups of four or five using your mother tongue and English.

4. Discuss the following statements with the help of your teacher.
 - (a) We have the technology to destroy the planet on which we live.
 - (b) We will have built colonies amid the stars.
 - (c) Right now, we have only one planet.

5. Prof. Hawking wrote about the problem in the Guardian.
Why is it given as 'news' in other papers?

TOW

Two minutes of Oral Work

Tell as many words as possible, related to the following words :

- news
- TV
- radio
- mobile

Activity

1. Go through a few specimens of any major newspaper. You will see that each page usually carries only a certain type of news. The types are decided according to region - city, state, nation, world, etc; and also according to the nature of the news - political, cultural, science related, financial, sports, related, etc. Read all the news items given on pages 70 to 72 and decide the types to which each belongs.
2. What other items do you find in a newspaper besides news?

(d)

QUICK CURE FOR ALL AILMENTS?

Staff Reporter: Kavathe:
Hundreds of people flock every hour to Ralewadi, a tiny settlement near Ambegaon. They wait in long winding queues in the hot sun to get a 'special' powder from Miribaba who claims that it cures all sorts of diseases. According to him, he has developed this powder from a special herb in the Himalayas. Unwilling to give the exact name and

source of the herb, he only says that it was revealed to him. He offers it at Rs 25 a packet. Each packet is specially 'blessed' by him. Some of his followers claim that they have seen him curing thousands of people with his powder. However, Dr Karnik of Ambegaon Civil Hospital says that the number of patients in their hospital has in fact increased in the last few weeks.

1. Guess the meaning of 'flock' and 'followers'.
2. Why is there a question mark in the heading?
3. Which part of the news is reliable? Which part may not be reliable? How do we learn that?
4. Will Miribaba and his followers like the news?
5. What should you do when you fall ill?
6. Imagine how this news item helped people understand the truth – that Miribaba's powder cannot cure diseases. Write the story about it in short, in your mother tongue.



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

- Write your own impressions about the news items given in (a), (b), (c) and (d) in the table below.



News item	Good news	Reliable	Interesting	Others
	Bad news	Unreliable	Uninteresting Boring	
a				
b				
c				
d				