

What is news?

3. News: this is news as it is about something going on in the world that people would want to hear.

4. Not news: this might be new information to the person receiving the text, but it is not news for other people

5. News: this is an unusual event that people might want to hear about. *Who might be interested in this news? Would it be more important to people who live near the volcano? Why? Who else might be affected by the story? Why would other people be interested?*

6. Not news: this is someone sharing their opinions. *When could a YouTube video be news?* Eg if a famous YouTuber announces something really important; a celebrity or politician gets a YouTube channel where they talk about important issues or make an announcement; or someone uploads footage of an event that other people haven't seen (like a protest, a crime, or an unusual event).

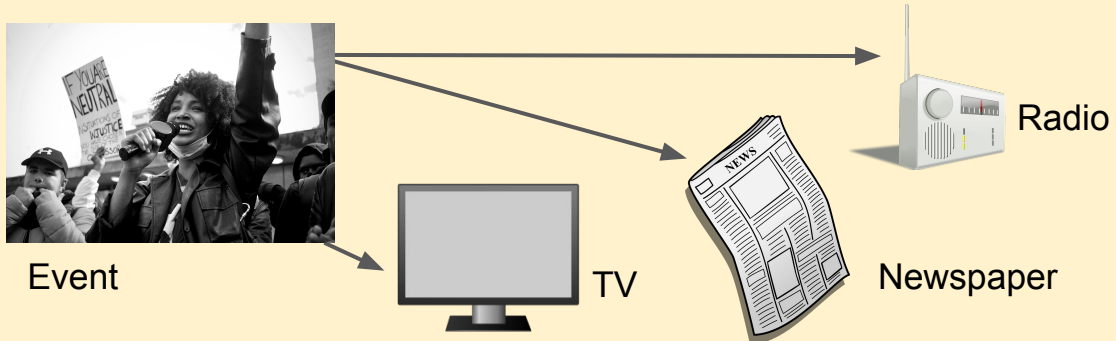
7. News: this will impact people's lives and people will want to hear it. *Is this news for everyone? Where does this news most impact people?* News outlets based in or broadcasting to the Manchester area might cover this news in more detail, whereas it might not be mentioned on the news in Scotland unless it is particularly bad, and is very unlikely to be mentioned on the news outside the UK.

8. News: this is an important event involving lots of people. *What if there are only 20 people protesting? Is that news? What if the same people have been protesting for two months? Would it still be news?*

9. Not news: This is someone's opinion, or could be an influencer advertising a product. *When might a story about makeup be in the news?* Eg if a product was found to contain harmful ingredients; if a company started making environmentally friendly products; if a product was so successful that people were queueing to have a chance to buy it

What is news?

News is information that is published in newspapers and broadcast on radio and television about recent events in the country, world or in a particular area.



Ask students how they would define news. Have students either discuss or write their ideas individually or as a class.

Look at this dictionary definition from Collins and see if it sums up their feelings or there is anything they'd like to add or change. It might be quite hard to come up with a definition, which speaks to the fact that news encompasses many things.

Photo: Sushil Nash via Unsplash
Clip art via Clip Safari

News or not?

Newcastle beats Arsenal 3-2



Photo: Nelson Ndongala via Unsplash

Go through each of these slides and see if students consider them news.

This one is news as it's a headline about something going on in the world that people would want to hear.

News or not?

A text message from
a friend at school:

My oven broke last night so
we got a pizza delivered!



This is not news – it may be new information to you when you're reading it and you might find it interesting, but it's not something that other people will want to or need to hear.

News or not?

Picture shared on Twitter of a volcano erupting right now in Iceland



This would be news as it's an unusual event that people might want to hear about.

To add more challenge, you might want to discuss who this might be news to. It would probably be more important news for people in Iceland who live near the volcano and might be impacted by it, but you could also discuss how sometimes an event like this might impact more widely (ash might be visible in the air, this might stop planes from flying).

Photo: Ása Steinarsdóttir via Unsplash

News or not?

YouTube video: My 10 favourite moments
in superhero films



This is not news – it is a person giving their opinions about something.

To challenge deeper, you could ask when a YouTube video might be news. Maybe a famous YouTuber announces something really important, a celebrity or politician gets a YouTube channel where they talk about important issues or make an announcement, or someone uploads footage of an event that other people haven't seen (like a protest, a crime, or an unusual event)

Photo: Szabo Viktor via Unsplash

News or not?

There has been a major car crash on the motorway near Manchester



This is news – it will impact people's lives and people will want to hear it.

To challenge further, you could ask if this is necessarily news for everyone. Where does this news most impact people? News outlets based in or broadcasting to the Manchester area may cover this news in more detail, where it might not be mentioned on the news in Scotland unless it is particularly bad, and definitely wouldn't be mentioned on the news outside the UK.

Photo: Clark Van Der Beken via Unsplash

News or not?

Thousands of young people across the country protest climate change



This is news – it's an important event that people may want to know about.

To challenge further, you could ask about whether or not this is news in different contexts. What if there are only 20 people protesting? Is it news then? What if the same people have been protesting for two months? Would it still be news?

Photo: Li-An Lim via Unsplash

News or not?

Instagram post: I absolutely love this new gold eyeshadow! 🥰



This is not news. This is someone sharing their opinion about a product – it might even be an advert for the eye shadow or the company may have sent the influencer the eye shadow for free to try.

For further challenge, you could discuss times when similar content could be news. A famous brand might be launching a new line of makeup, or a new person might be in charge of the company and are trying to take the brand in a different direction. There can also be certain types of publications where this type of news is more likely to appear, such as the fashion section of a newspaper or a website devoted to makeup trends, but this instagram post itself would still not be news.

Photo: Marcus Lewis via Unsplash

Where do you find out about news?



TV



Friends and family



Newspapers



School



Social media



Websites / News apps



Radio / Podcasts

Ask students where they get their news from. Prompt students to think of a wider definition of news - not just current affairs, but other things that may interest them such as sport, music or gaming news.

Clip art via Clip Safari

Photos clockwise from upper right:

Jeswin Thomas via Unsplash

C D-X via Unsplash

Rahul Chakraborty via Unsplash

What goes into news stories?

A news story should feature the 5Ws:

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?



News stories contain the 5Ws

Who? – Who is the story written about? This can be more than one person.

What? – What is the story about? What is the subject of the story?

Where? – Where did it take place? This could be more than one location, and might be specific (148 Wargrave Road, Reading) or general (Japan)

When? – As most news is recent, this sometimes has to be implied and might not say explicitly. If something is “breaking news”, it probably happened very recently or is ongoing.

Why? – Why did the events in the story happen? This can sometime be more complex, or that information might not be known yet (eg. The cause of the train crash is still under investigation)

It is important to note that news stories usually contain the 5ws in the first one or two paragraphs because they are the most important information. This is usually the same for both written stories and ones on TV or radio news.

Clip art via Clip Safari

Can you identify the 5 Ws?

A cafe owner and her husband escaped a fire that broke out on Queen Street in Bolton early on Tuesday morning. Fire crews evacuated the couple, who live above the cafe, and quickly put out the flames before they spread to other buildings. Fire fighters believe that the fire was caused by an electrical fault.

Read this story aloud. Have them feed back the 5ws one at a time.

Your turn:

Find one or two articles that interest you in a newspaper or on a news website.

- Write down the headline
- Write down the 5 Ws



If you have time:

- Write down a person you would like to ask question to if you were a reporter asked to report on this story.

This slide is only used if doing accompanying independent work.

This can be done as a whole class, in groups, or individually. Students can use the provided worksheet or write in notebooks.

Clip art via Clip Safari

What have you learnt?



Plenary

You're an editor for a UK news website editor. What more information about these stories do you need before you report them?

1. There has been a plane crash
2. Scientists have invented a new medication
3. Wales won a rugby match
4. A new actor is going to play James Bond

This is a plenary activity that can be used with or without the independent work.

Ask students to imagine they are the editor for a UK news website (the person in charge of picking which stories get covered). They've got the following pieces of information in front of them – what more information would they need in order to report these stories

Remind students to think about the 5Ws

Some answers might include:

1.
 - *Where did the plane crash?*
 - *Where was the plane coming from and going to?*
 - *What airline was the plane from?*
 - *Why did the plane crash?*
 - *Who was on the plane? How many people and are they safe?*
 - *When did the crash happen?*
2.
 - *What does the medication treat?*
 - *Where was it invented?*
 - *When can people start to use this medication?*
 - *Who invented it?*
 - *Who will it help?*
 - *Why or how does it work?*

1.
 - *When was the match?*
 - *Who were they playing against?*
 - *Who were the star players?*
 - *What does that mean for the team and other matches they'll play in the future?*
2.
 - *Who is this actor?*
 - *What other films has this actor been in?*
 - *When will the first James Bond film with the new actor be released?*
 - *Why did they choose this actor?*

News. **WISE** Behind the Headlines

theguardianfoundation.org

For more media literacy resources from Behind the Headlines and Newswise, visit
<https://theguardianfoundation.org/>.