

## Newspaper English

Discuss these questions with your partner.

1. Do you read newspapers in English? If so which one and how often? If not, why not?
2. Do you read newspapers in your language? If so which ones and how often? Are they easy to get in Dublin? Are they expensive?
3. Do you ever use the Internet to catch up with the latest news?

### True or False ?

1. *The Irish Times* is the biggest- selling daily newspaper in Ireland
2. *The Irish Sun* is a broadsheet.
3. Another name for a tabloid is a "red-top".
4. The person with overall control of the content of a newspaper is called the editor.
5. Most local and regional newspapers are published weekly.
6. *The Evening Herald* is the only free daily on the Irish market.
7. Sub-editors are responsible for coming up with headlines and titles for articles.
8. An obituary is an appreciation written about a person when they die.
9. If a newspaper publishes something about you which is not true, you can sue it for libel.
10. You can't believe everything you read in the papers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## **Newspaper Headlines**

The language used in newspaper headlines is very specific.  
Do you understand these headlines from Irish newspapers?

1. Head of Refugee Council to quit
2. Fine Gael leader blasts Garda Chief
3. Tánaiste pledges more beds
4. Kidnap victim's family plea for mercy
5. Dáil adjourns for 12 weeks. TDs say, "It's no holiday"
6. ESB charges to rise
7. RTE denies cover-up
8. Unions walk out of talks
9. Six die in Road carnage
10. Three-year-old dies in blaze
11. Power cuts loom for thousands of families
12. Commuters hit by severe weather

## **Language Work**

1. Some of the words and abbreviations used in the headlines refer to particular institutions and organisations of the Republic of Ireland. What do they refer to?
  
2. Most of the verbs in the headlines are in the present simple. What is the exception? Which headlines refer to things that have already happened and which refer to events in the future?
  
3. Find words that mean the same as:
  - A) negotiations
  - B) resigns
  - C) increase
  - D) promises
  - E) begs
  - F) leave as a protest
  - G) say something is not true
  - H) badly affected
  - I) criticise strongly
  - J) fire
  - K) many deaths

## Newspaper English

**MODULE: Media**

**LEVEL: Newspaper Headlines**

<b>Time: 60 minutes</b>	<b>Focus: Language of newspaper headlines</b>
<b>Class organisation: pairs/ Whole class</b>	<b>Type of activity: Discussion/ Reading Comprehension/ Dictionary skills</b>
<b>Can be adapted to:</b>	<b>Prerequisites: Learner dictionaries</b>
<b>FETAC:</b>	
<b>ELP: B2 Read and interpret news items using my general (and Irish) knowledge to support interpretation</b>	

**For this activity you need...**

Learner dictionaries

**N.B.**

### In Class Procedure at a Glance

1. Put students in pairs to discuss the warm up questions. 5 /10 minutes. Encourage them to make notes about their partners answers.
2. Students Report what they have found out to the whole class 10/15 minutes
3. Ask for a volunteer to summarise the data about the class's newspaper reading habits. S/he will have to ask for a show of hands on a few qs – How many read people an English language newspaper every day/once a week, etc. 5/10 minutes
4. Get students to read and answer the True or False questions in pairs. Let them use Eng.- Eng. dictionaries.
5. Check answers for class as a whole. In answering the Qs you could take the opportunity to explain the origin of broadsheet and tabloid and recent changes in newspaper formats. Also Irish editions of British

newspapers and any other points of interest. When answering the last question encourage students to talk about the press in their country.

6. Students pick out the specifically Irish institutions etc. See if they know what the initials stand for.
7. Students match the synonyms or near synonyms. Let them compare answers in pairs before checking for the whole class.
8. See if students can think of any other common initials or acronyms in Irish life - CIE EBS etc. Put ideas on the board and see if students can work out what the letters stand for. Some students will enjoy exercising their imaginations and guessing.
9. Take the opportunity to brainstorm further information about Irish public life: e.g. names of other political parties, location of Dail Eirann, names of local TDs etc.