

## News Stories

Read the three new stories below

### Story 1

#### **Irish Banks Overcharging**

Ireland's main banks are being asked to pay back €118m to customers they have overcharged over the past few years.

Allied Irish Bank, Bank of Ireland and The National Irish Bank have been ordered to refund their customers. Insurance companies have also been guilty of overcharging and will have to pay out.

The country's biggest bank AIB has been told to pay back €34.2m. It has already paid out more than €21m.

*Source: Irish Independent*

### Story 2

#### **Israeli Bomb kills UN Peacekeepers**

An Israeli bomb destroyed a UN observer post on the border in southern Lebanon late last night, killing four peacekeepers.

UN chief Kofi Annan said Israel appeared to have struck the site deliberately.

*Source: Google News*

### Story 3

#### **Whale stranded in Larne Harbour**

A rescue operation is underway in County Antrim to save a minke whale which has become stranded on the coastline.

The whale was spotted at around 7am yesterday stranded in shallow water close to Larne Harbour.

Staff from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group have been at the scene trying to encourage the animal into deeper water.

It is believed that the current heatwave may have attracted the mammal into the area, and boats are being asked to keep away from the area to prevent the animal from becoming more disorientated and frightened.

Minke whales can grow up to 10 metres in length and can weigh close to 10 tonnes.

*Source: BBC News Online*

**Pick the story which you think is the most important and say why you feel it is so important.**

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**Which story do you find the most interesting? Explain why you think it is the most interesting.**

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**Which story is the most difficult to understand? Explain why you feel it is difficult.**

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**Find words in the three news stories that have the same meaning to the words/phrases below**

clients \_\_\_\_\_

pay back \_\_\_\_\_

charging too much \_\_\_\_\_

not innocent \_\_\_\_\_

damaged badly \_\_\_\_\_

a person who watches \_\_\_\_\_

intentionally \_\_\_\_\_

in progress \_\_\_\_\_

unable to get away \_\_\_\_\_

by the sea \_\_\_\_\_

not deep \_\_\_\_\_

a period of hot weather \_\_\_\_\_

a creature who feeds its young  
on milk \_\_\_\_\_

confused about where one is \_\_\_\_\_

**Grammar Reference**

**Underline all the examples of the Present Perfect in these news extracts and write them below.**

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**Underline all the examples of the Past Simple in these news extracts and write them below.**

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**Underline all the examples of Passive sentences and write them below.**

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## Three News Stories

**MODULE:**

**LEVEL:**

<b>Time: 60 –70 minutes</b>	<b>Focus: Grammar and Structure in a report</b>
<b>Class organisation:</b>	<b>Type of activity: Reading, vocabulary, comprehension and writing</b>
<b>Can be adapted to:</b>	<b>Prerequisites:</b>
<b>FETAC: Reading a Newspaper Article</b>	
<b>ELP: B1 – Quickly scan and understand the main points of newspaper reports</b>	

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

The worksheet, dictionaries

**N.B.**

### In Class Procedure at a Glance

Read the News Stories.

Examine vocabulary used.

Discuss the impact of these stories.

Students assess the importance of the stories.

Grammar study: special focus on passive structures and use of Present Perfect.