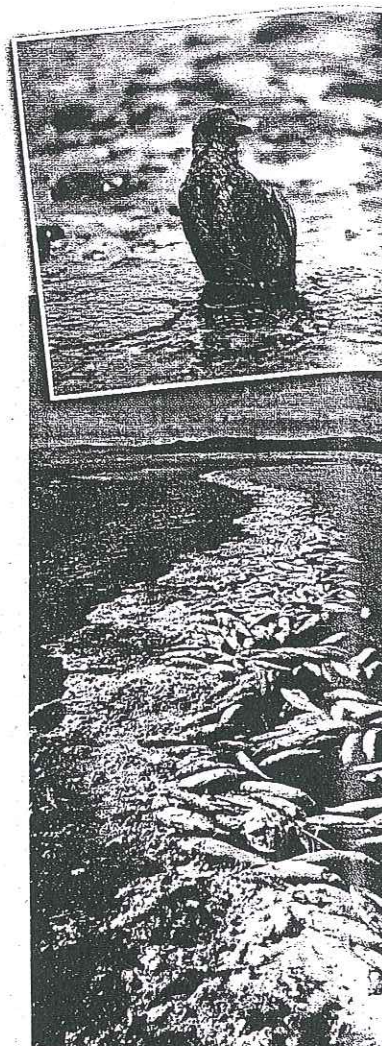


UNIT 12a News Reports

1 Look at the table below, then listen to the cassette and tick (✓) the information mentioned. Finally, use the table to report the event described.

TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Date: | Tuesday night | <input type="checkbox"/> | last night | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Place: | island of St Finn | <input type="checkbox"/> | island of Pepco | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Main Events: | oil tanker hit rocks | <input type="checkbox"/> | oil tanker exploded | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | chemicals leaked into sea | <input type="checkbox"/> | oil leaked into sea | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | seabirds, wildlife harmed | <input type="checkbox"/> | seabirds, wildlife unharmed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments and action to be taken: | beach now closed | <input type="checkbox"/> | beach being cleaned | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | residents angry | <input type="checkbox"/> | residents calm | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | first time faced such a situation | <input type="checkbox"/> | one of worst situations ever faced | <input type="checkbox"/> |



News reports are short pieces of writing about current events which are of interest to the public (e.g. natural disasters, accidents, political or sports events, social events etc). They are formal and impersonal in style and they present facts accurately, objectively and unemotionally. Therefore, they do not include feelings or chatty descriptions unless these are part of someone's comments quoted in direct speech.

A news report should consist of:

- a **short, eye-catching headline**;
- an **introduction** which summarises the event, giving information about the time, place and people involved;
- a **main body** consisting of two or more paragraphs in which the event is described in detail, including information about incidents and the people involved; and
- a **conclusion** which includes people's comments on the event, action(s) to be taken and/or future developments.

News reports are found in newspapers, magazines, etc. You normally use **past tenses**, the **passive** and appropriate **reporting verbs** in this type of writing.

2 Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

You work for *The Bridgeton Herald* and have been asked to write a news report about a young child who received an award for bravery. Include details about the reason the award was given and information about the prize-giving ceremony.

- Who is going to read your report?
 - your school friends
 - readers of the newspaper you work for
- Which of the following should your article *not* be about? Give reasons.
 - a man who saved a child from drowning
 - a boy who risked his own life to save his father
 - a woman who stopped a bank robbery from taking place

Introduction

Paragraph 1

summary of the event – what/who/when/where ✓

Main Body

Paragraphs 2, 3, 4 *

description and detailed information about event, people involved, etc

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

comments and/or actions to be taken and/or future developments

*The number of main body paragraphs may vary depending on the rubric.

- 3 Which of the following *must* you include in your article? Tick (✓).
- A when and where the award ceremony took place
 - B a description of the young child's appearance
 - C why the award was presented
 - D the weather on the day of the ceremony
- 4 In which paragraph of your report should you give a brief summary of the event?
- 5 In which paragraph should you include people's comments on the event?
- 6 Should you use short forms? colloquial language? chatty descriptions? If so, where in your report should you use them?
- 3 a) Read the news report below and label the paragraphs with the correct headings.
- *people's comments*
 - *description of ceremony*
 - *summary of event*
 - *reason for award*

- b) Underline the verbs in the passive. Which reporting verbs have been used in the report? In which paragraph(s) are they? Justify your answer.
- c) Read the report again and use words from the list to complete the phrases below. Then, talk about what happened to Thomas Dakin, as in the example.

presented, risked, came, rescue, owed, trapped, bravery, informal, saved, attended, stayed

- 1 was *presented* with an award
- 2 award for
- 3 the decision
- 4 his father's life
- 5 his own life
- 6 under a boulder
- 7 by his side
- 8 team
- 9 lunch
- 10 the event was
- 11 his life

e.g. *Thomas was presented with an award by the mayor.*

Ten-Year-Old Awarded Medal for Bravery by Sarah White

Introduction

A ten-year-old boy was presented with an award for bravery in a ceremony at Bridgeton Town Hall yesterday. The award was presented to Thomas Dakin by Bridgeton Mayor, John Archer.

Para 1
summary of event

Main Body

The decision came after Thomas saved his father's life on a hiking trip in Yorkshire last month. Thomas risked his own life to free his father, Neil Dakin, 33, who was trapped under a heavy boulder during a rock fall. Thomas called for help on his father's mobile phone and stayed by his side for five hours until the rescue team arrived.

Para 2
.....
.....
.....

Conclusion

The award ceremony began at 11:00 yesterday morning with a speech from the mayor, who congratulated Thomas and presented him with the medal. This was followed by an informal lunch in the town hall's Kilburn Suite. The event was attended by members of the council and Thomas' family.

Para 3
.....
.....
.....

Neil Dakin, now fully recovered, commented that he was delighted his son's bravery had been recognised, saying that he owed his life to him. Mayor John Archer pointed out, "Thomas is an example to us all. Everyone in Bridgeton is very proud of him."

Para 4
.....
.....
.....



A **headline** is a short summary of what the report is about. To write a headline:

- use the **present simple** for **recent events**:
FACTORY EXPLOSION DAMAGES TOWN (=has damaged/damaged)
- use **to-infinitive** to describe a **future event**: **LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM TO FLY TO ITALY FOR CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE** (= is going to fly)
- use **to be + past participle** when using the passive voice to describe a future event: **TEACHERS' ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN AUGUST** (= is going to be held)
- use abbreviations like UK, USA, UNESCO
UN RESCUES HOSTAGES IN SIERRA LEONE
- omit full stops or commas, articles, pronouns, auxiliary verbs and words easily understood from context: **SEVEN INJURED IN TRAIN CRASH** (= Seven **people were** injured in a train crash.)
- omit the verb "to be" when using the passive to describe a past event:
YOUNG GIRL SAVED BY RESCUE WORKERS (= was saved).

4 Change the sentences into headlines, as in the example.

- 1 A bomb was found on a train which was heading for London yesterday morning. Bomb found on train heading for London
- 2 Many fans were injured at the football match.
.....
- 3 A sixty-year-old man has been shot by some car thieves.
.....
- 4 A team of local climbers reached the top of Mount Everest at three o'clock yesterday afternoon.
.....
- 5 This has been a brilliant season for Manchester United football club.
.....
- 6 A young girl rescued her brother from some kidnappers.
.....

for the headline which has not been used.

6 Use the notes to write beginnings for the following news reports. Then, give a headline for each.



1

- valuable Renoir painting
- steal late last night
- Terrence Wagner Museum
- worth over 2 million pounds
- in museum since 1983



2

- New space station, Hermes
- successfully launched from Cape Kennedy yesterday
- remain in orbit around earth next eight months

14 Last week a new music club opened in London. Read the advertisement and fill in the plan below. Then, use the completed plan to talk about the event.

News reports, like narratives, describe events that happened in the past. However, the style is different. When writing a report you should:

- begin with a **summary** of the event
- include **accurate facts**
- use **formal** and **impersonal** style
- use **the passive**
- use **direct speech** to quote what people have said and **reported speech** to rephrase people's comments

When writing a story you should:

- begin by **setting the scene**
- use **chatty style**
- use **short forms, colloquial expressions**, variety of **adjectives/adverbs**
- refer to the writer's/characters' **feelings**

SHAKE!

The BEST Music Club in the World!

No.1 pop singer ANY WONDER will open the club and perform live!

Don't Miss it!

5 Brunel Street, East London

SUMMARY OF EVENT

- Who:
- Where:
- When:
- What: *Shake!* music club opened

DETAILS

- 6pm: fans started queuing outside club
- 8.15pm: Any Wonder arrived – black limousine – signed autographs
- 9pm: Club opened doors
- 10pm: Any Wonder on stage

COMMENTS

- club owner Martin Lowe – "I hope the club will be a great success."