



# Open Discussion

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_OD\_B1\_01

**LANGUAGE**

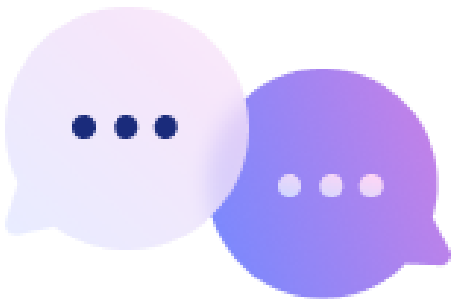
English

# A conversation about... current affairs

*In this lesson, you'll have the opportunity to review vocabulary and practise your conversational skills.*

## WARM-UP

- Is there a **difference** between news and current affairs?
- Share a **recent** piece of news you found interesting and briefly say why.



## DISCUSS

Discuss **what's happening** around the world.

- Choose your own topic
- Live news exploration

## WRAP-UP

- **Reflect** on the language used during the class.
- Did you learn any interesting **new words**?
- What will you **take away** from the discussion of current affairs?



# Teacher Notes

1

## STEP 1

**Warm-up.** Invite students to share a recent piece of news they found interesting.

2

## STEP 2

**Explain** that today's class will focus on current affairs, with topics chosen by students and/or sourced live from news websites.

3

## STEP 3

- **Part 1 Student-selected topics:** Students suggest current affair topics they are interested in. Facilitate a discussion, encouraging students to ask each other questions.
- **Part 2 Live news exploration:** Open some news websites live in class (check out the resources on p.4). Browse headlines together and select an article to discuss, focusing on understanding the content, sharing opinions, and exploring different viewpoints.

4

## STEP 4

**Wrap up** the class by having students briefly share what they learned or found interesting in today's class.



### Discussion prompts

- *Environmental initiatives (local and global)*
- *Impact of technology on daily life*
- *Work-life balance and modern work culture*
- *Innovations in healthcare*
- *Cultural events and festivals around the world*
- *Impact of social media on society*
- *Global food trends and health*
- *Changes in education systems worldwide*
- *Sports and international competitions*
- *Art and music as tools for social change*

# Teacher Notes

Here are some **tips** for setting up the main activity, as well as useful vocabulary and resources related to the topic of current affairs.

## Conversation starters

Here are some additional questions. This activity can be completed in pairs in breakout rooms, with each student receiving a different set.

- **Question set 1:**

- Are you interested in current affairs and news?
- What stories have you been following recently?
- How many hours a day do you spend reading about, watching or listening to news?
- What is the latest news about your country?
- Are you interested in news from other countries?
- When did you first become interested in current affairs?
- What would you like to be more knowledgeable about?
- Do you ever read or listen to the news in English?

- **Question set 2:**

- What kind of current affairs stories do you enjoy reading about?
- What sections of a newspaper or website do you check most often (health, technology, business, etc.)?
- How current is current?
- How much time do you spend discussing current affairs with friends?
- What recent events are you fed up hearing about?
- How do you feel when you haven't heard the news for a few days?
- How often does the news greatly affect your feelings?
- Which person in the news do you most like hearing or reading about?
- What is your favourite news source?



### Resources:

[The Guardian International](#)  
[BBC News](#)  
[Al Jazeera](#)  
[NPR](#)  
[Reuters](#)