

Four Corners

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Student's Book



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The news

LESSON A

- News sections
- Verb tenses - statements

LESSON B

- Agreeing with an opinion
- Disagreeing politely

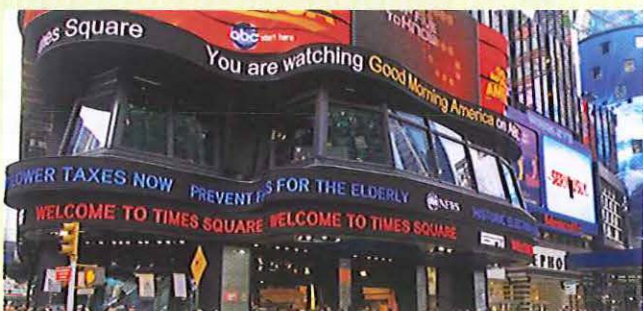
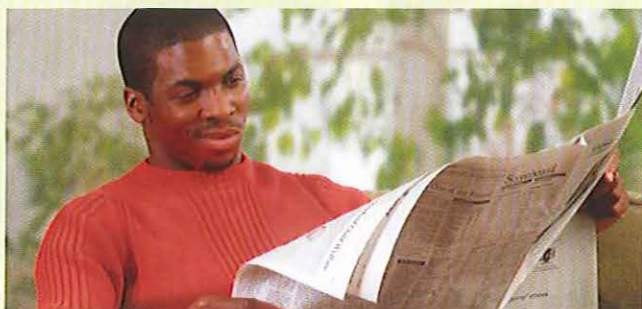
LESSON C

- Actions in the news
- Verb tenses - questions

LESSON D

- Reading: "Citizen Journalism"
- Writing: Become a citizen journalist

Warm-up



A Look at the pictures. How are the people getting their news?

B How do people you know get the news? How do *you* get the news?

1 Vocabulary News sections

A Listen to the names of news sections. In which news sections can you find the pictures? Compare your answers with a partner.

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| a. Business | c. Health | e. Local | g. Technology / Science | i. Weather |
| b. Entertainment | ✓d. Lifestyle | f. Sports | h. Travel | j. World |



"I think you can find the first picture in the Lifestyle section."

B Pair work In which news section can you find these news stories? Discuss your ideas.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| the best new applications for phones | a meeting among world leaders |
| last night's soccer scores | a new coffeehouse in your town |

2 Language in context In the news

A Read the headlines and the beginning of each story. Match the headlines to the news sections in Exercise 1A where you can find these stories.

PHOTOS SHOW ANCIENT MARTIAN LAKE g ☐

New photos suggest that Mars had a large lake billions of years ago.

Town Recovering from Storm ☐

The town of Jasper is slowly recovering from last week's storm.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS ☐

Hawaii hopes to attract more business travelers.

Jason Parker Debuts New CD at Lucid's ☐

Jason was playing his new songs to an excited audience until 2:00 a.m.

B What about you? Are you interested in these stories? Rank them from 1 to 4 in the order you would read them.

3 Grammar Verb tenses – statements

Simple present: Hawaii **hopes** to attract more business travelers.
 Present continuous: Jasper **is recovering** from last week's storm.
 Simple past: Mars **had** a large lake billions of years ago.
 Past continuous: Jason **was playing** songs all night.
 Present perfect: Café Bella **has opened** in Pelham.
 Future with will: The Winter Olympics **will begin** next Monday.

Complete the news stories with the correct forms of the verbs. Then compare with a partner.

1. The *Austin Sun Times* has closed (close) its doors – for now. The newspaper _____ (print) its last newspaper last Sunday, but it _____ (open) again next month as an Internet-only paper. Staff members _____ (learn) about digital publishing now, so they _____ (be) ready next month. Sadly, the *Austin Gazette* _____ (be) now the city's only "paper" newspaper.
2. Pink _____ (be) a playful color, and it _____ (make) people smile. But last night William Maddox _____ (not / smile) when he _____ (stop) a fight in his store. "Two people _____ (argue) for about five minutes over the last pink T-shirt in my store. I _____ (ask) them to leave and then _____ (close) the store for the day," said Maddox.
3. Fifteen-year-old Kate Moore _____ (be) the country's newest texting champion. Last Tuesday, she _____ (compete) against 20 other contestants and _____ (win) \$50,000 for her fast and accurate texting. But even Kate _____ (get) one question wrong. No one _____ (know) the meaning of the abbreviation "PAW." It _____ (mean), "I can't talk now. My parents _____ (watch)."

4 Speaking News stories

A Pair work Think of a story from the news, or make one up. Complete the chart.

What happened?	
What else was happening at the time?	
What has happened since?	
What's happening now?	

B Group work Share your stories. What will happen in the future?

5 Keep talking!

Go to page 123 for more practice.


I can tell news stories. 

B I totally agree.

1 Interactions Agreeing and disagreeing

A Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

"The best place to get news is online."

B  Listen to the conversation. Why can't Carl check the news headlines? Then practice the conversation.

Carl: Hey, Jim. Catching up on the news?

Jim: Oh, hi, Carl. Yeah, I like to know what's going on in the world.

Carl: I feel exactly the same way. Do you read the paper every day?

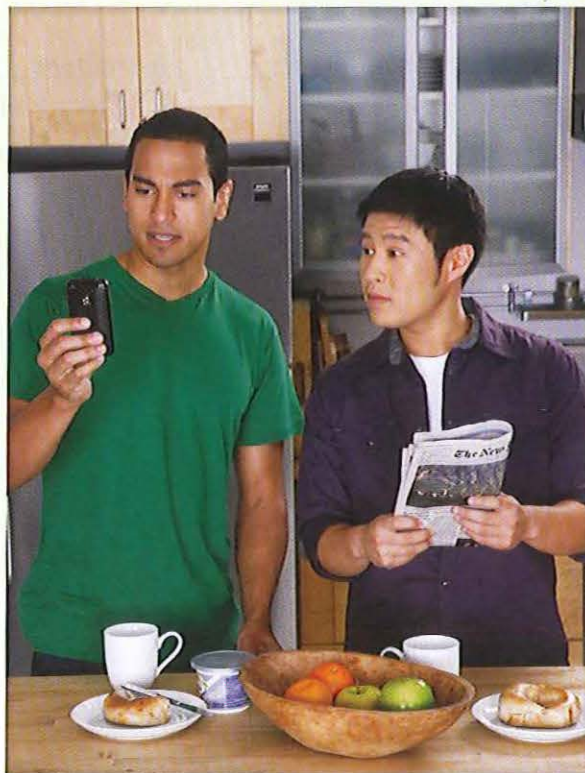
Jim: Every day. It's the best way to get the news.


Carl: Really? I don't know about that. I get all my news online. I check the news several times a day, so I always know what's happening.

Jim: Online news is OK, but I prefer reading an actual newspaper. So, what are the latest headlines online – right now?

Carl: Let's see. . . . Oh, no! I can't get online. I guess there's no wireless signal here. Say, would you mind sharing your paper?

Jim: No problem!



C  Read the expressions below. Complete each box with a similar expression from the conversation. Then listen and check your answers.

Agreeing with an opinion

I couldn't agree with you more.
I totally agree.

Disagreeing politely

I'm not sure about that.
I'm not sure that's really true.

D Pair work Check (✓) the statements you agree with. Then give your opinions and agree or disagree with your partner.

☐ It's important to read the news every day.

☐ The Internet is a better way to get news than newspapers.


☐ Newsmagazines are more interesting than newspapers.

☐ There's not enough positive news these days.


A: I think it's important to read the news every day.

B: I totally agree. It's important to know what's going on.

2 Pronunciation Reduced vowel sounds


A  Listen and repeat. Notice the reduced vowel sound /ə/ in unstressed syllables.

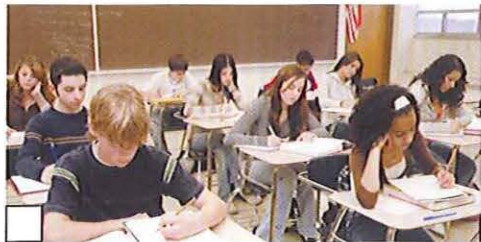
agree totally even happening


B  Listen. Underline the reduced vowel sounds. Then practice with a partner.

signal about magazine travel section television

3 Listening Agree or disagree

A  Listen to Ted and Carrie discuss today's news. What news are they talking about? Number the pictures from 1 to 4.



B  Listen again. Does Carrie agree or disagree with Ted? Circle the answers.

1. agree / disagree 2. agree / disagree 3. agree / disagree 4. agree / disagree

4 Speaking What do you think?

A Check (✓) the statements you agree with, and mark an X next to the statements you disagree with. Then write a supporting sentence for your opinion.

Statement	Supporting sentence
<input type="checkbox"/> News bloggers don't provide real news.	
<input type="checkbox"/> International news stories don't affect me.	
<input type="checkbox"/> It's important to follow local news.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting news 24 hours a day is helpful.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers hurt the environment.	

B Class activity Walk around the class. Share your opinions with your classmates. Agree or disagree politely.

A: *In my opinion, news bloggers don't provide real news. They write opinions, not facts.*

B: *I'm not sure that's true. A lot of bloggers are really newspaper writers.*

I can agree and disagree with opinions.

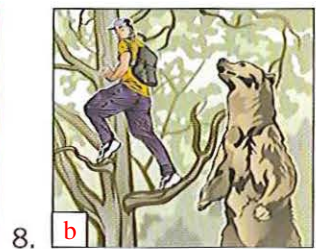
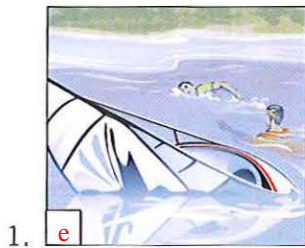


C Survival stories

1 Vocabulary Actions in the news

A Match the news headlines and the pictures. Then listen and check your answers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Shark Attacks Local Surfer | e. Boat Overtakes – All Swim to Safety |
| b. Bear Chases Hiker Up Tree | f. Firefighter Rescues Family Cat |
| c. Pilot Crashes Plane – No One Hurt | g. Hiker Survives Week in the Mountains |
| d. Lightning Misses Golfer by One Foot | h. Fire Threatens Historic Town |



B Pair work Use each verb in Part A in a new headline.

"Swimmer Survives Three Days in Ocean"

2 Conversation Shark attack!

A Listen to the conversation. How did Wade stop the shark?

Reporter: Wade, what happened?

Wade: A shark attacked me! Can you believe it?

Reporter: How are you feeling? Are you OK?

Wade: Oh, I feel great! I survived a shark attack. That's pretty cool.

Reporter: What were you doing when it happened?

Wade: I was riding a killer wave.

Reporter: Did you actually see the shark?

Wade: Not at first. But then I fell off my board. The shark tried to bite me, so I hit it with my surfboard.

Reporter: Have you seen your surfboard?

Wade: Yeah. It has a big shark bite in it.

Reporter: Amazing! So, what will you do next?

B Listen to the rest of the interview. What will Wade do next? When?

He buy a new surfboard when



3 Grammar

Verb tenses – questions

Wh- questions

- Simple present: When **do** you **plan** on surfing?
 Present continuous: How **are** you **feeling**?
 Simple past: What **did** you **see**?
 Past continuous: What **were** you **doing**?
 Present perfect: How long **have** you **surfed**?
 Future with will: What **will** you **do** next?

Yes / no questions

- Do** you **plan** on surfing today?
Are you **feeling** OK?
Did you **see** the shark?
Were you **surfing**?
Have you **surfed** for a long time?
Will you **go** back in the water soon?

A Look at the yes/no questions the reporter asked Wade. Complete the questions with the correct forms of the verbs. Then compare with a partner.

- Do you go (go) surfing every day?
- Did anyone see (see) the shark before it attacked you?
- Were other people surfing (surf) around you?
- Will you buy (buy) a new surfboard soon?
- Have you spoken (speak) with your family yet?
- Do you have (have) any advice for other surfers?



B Read the answers. Write *Wh-* questions about the underlined words. Then practice with a partner.

- Where did she crash the plane? She crashed the plane in a forest.
- How long has he been in the desert? He's been in the desert for a week.
- How did the firefighter feel? The firefighter felt very proud.
- When will the fire threaten the town center? The fire will threaten the town center tonight.
- What were they doing when the boat overturned? They were fishing when the boat overturned.
- What is he thinking about writing? He's thinking about writing a survival book.

4 Speaking Tell me about it.

Pair work Role-play a reporter and a survivor of one of the news stories in Exercise 1. Then change roles.

Student A: Choose a headline from Exercise 1, and read it to your partner. Answer your partner's questions.

Student B: Ask your partner five questions about what happened.

A: *Who were you sailing with?*

B: *I was sailing with some friends.*

Questions

- Who were you sailing with?*
- How exactly did the boat overturn?*
- How often do you go sailing?*
- Have you ever ... ?*
-

5 Keep talking!

Go to page 124 for more practice.

I can ask questions and talk about a news story.

1 Reading

A Look at the logos of the news websites in the article. Which websites have you looked at? What other news websites do you know?

B Read the article. Check (✓) the main idea of the article.

- ☒ Traditional news organizations are upset with citizen journalists.
☐ Technology allows anyone to be a reporter, anytime and anywhere.

Citizen Journalism

Arpita has just updated her news blog. The winners of a local election in Mumbai have just been announced, and she has listed their names on her blog. On the website of a local newspaper, Liat has recently posted a "digital story," a series of photos and descriptions of a whale rescue. And hundreds of people in the Dominican Republic are tweeting on their cell phones to describe a hurricane that is threatening the country.

What do these stories have in common? Technology is giving people the chance to be news reporters. More than ever before, technology is allowing everyone to share opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and videos from anywhere in the world. If there is **breaking news**, you can be sure that someone is reporting it.

Wikinews, iNewsit, CNN's iReport, and MSNBC's FirstPerson are just a few of the websites where "citizen journalists" can write their news reports. More and more people are blogging texts, photos, and videos. They're sharing their personal thoughts and news

reports with the world on these websites. And the increased **prevalence** of cell phones and cameras has made it even easier for people to share news.

Many media organizations such as CNN now have entire sections of these news stories on their websites. News editors used to decide what was news. Now *you* decide.

There has been some **criticism** of citizen journalism, however. For example, there are often mistakes in these stories, including incorrect facts, spelling, and grammar. These stories may not be as **neutral** as regular news organizations' stories usually are. Moreover, when people **instantly** upload stories and images, they cannot know how other people will use them later. But it seems that news by the people and for the people is here to stay.



C Find the words in **bold** in the article. Circle the correct meaning.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. breaking news | <u>a. news happening now</u> | b. news about problems |
| 2. prevalence | a. lower cost of | b. frequent use |
| 3. criticism | a. high costs | b. opinions on what's wrong |
| 4. neutral | a. written well | b. fair |
| 5. instantly | a. immediately | b. done without thinking |

D What's your opinion about citizen journalism? Do you think it's a good thing? Do you agree with the criticisms in the article? Do you have other ideas?

2 Listening Photos of the day

A Listen to a TV newscaster discuss photos that four viewers have sent in. Number the photos from 1 to 4.



B Listen again. Answer the questions.

1. When did Rafael take the photograph? Rafael took the photograph after the storm yesterday.
2. How much of a discount was the store offering? 70%
3. How long does it usually take Yumiko to get home? 3 hours
4. What did Arlo do when he saw the animal? He stated to chase an animal.

C Which news stories in Part A interest you? Why? Where can you find out more about them?

3 Writing and speaking Become a citizen journalist

A Complete one of these headlines.

HUGE STORM TO ARRIVE _____
Threatens High School

Lightning Misses _____
Technology Changes _____

LOCAL TEEN RESCUES _____ **IN FOREST**

Students Ask _____ **for** _____

B Write a short news blog. Use your headline from Part A and the model to help you.

Huge Storm to Arrive Friday
A huge storm is coming on Friday. Everyone is preparing for it. Most people have already bought food and water. . . .

C Group work Share your news blogs. Ask questions to find out more information about each story.

I can discuss a news story.



Wrap-up

1 Quick pair review

Lesson A Find out! What are two sections of the news both you and your partner like to read? You and your partner have one minute.

A: *I read the World section of the newspaper. Do you?*

B: *No, I don't. I read the Travel section. Do you?*

A: *Yes, I do.*

Lesson B Do you remember? Write A for expressions that show agreeing with an opinion and D for expressions that show disagreeing with an opinion. You have one minute.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u>A</u> 1. I feel exactly the same way. | _____ 4. I don't know about that. |
| _____ 2. I couldn't agree with you more. | _____ 5. I totally agree. |
| _____ 3. I'm not sure about that. | _____ 6. I'm not sure that's really true. |

Lesson C Brainstorm! Write the question "Where do you shop?" in as many different tenses as you can. You have two minutes.

Lesson D Guess! Describe something newsworthy for each item, but don't say where it happened. Can your partner guess the place? Take turns. You and your partner have three minutes.

something you did yesterday
something you do every day
something you will do tomorrow

A: *Yesterday I ate at a great café. I had tacos and rice and beans.*

B: *Were you at Café Mexicana?*

A: *Yes, I was.*

2 In the real world

What is a breaking news story in your area? Go online or read a newspaper, and find an article in English about it. Then write about it.

- What section did you find the article in?
- What happened?

Oil Spill Threatens Animals
The national news reported an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil will harm fish and birds.