

Newspaper Articles: An Introduction

Newspapers include both news articles and feature articles.

- News articles report on current events. They focus on providing people with facts, and aim to answer the questions *who, what, where, why and when*. News articles provide the most important details of the story in the first paragraph or two. This is called the lead.
- Feature articles can have different purposes: to persuade, to present an opinion or a point of view, to tell about an experience, to inform, or to teach. They include facts, but they also include more background information or the history of an event. Some examples of feature articles are columns, editorials, life stories, interviews and in-depth coverage of an event or an issue.

Sections of a newspaper

Newspapers are divided into several sections. Each section includes articles that relate to the section title. Newspapers vary in the titles and content of their sections. *The Globe and Mail*, for example, uses section titles and letters: *News A, Report on Business B, Sports S, Review R* and so on. It is useful to be familiar with the sections of your local newspaper.

1 | In small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Where do you get your news (e.g., newspaper, Internet, TV)?
2. Do you read the news in English or in your first language?
3. If you read the newspaper, which sections are your favourites?
4. When you read an article, do you tend to read it word for word?
5. Before you read a newspaper article, what parts of the article do you look at first?

2 | In groups, use a newspaper to determine which section would contain the following items:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • weather | • comics |
| • hockey scores | • job, rental and car ads |
| • movie reviews | • stock market information |
| • letters from readers | • horoscopes |
| • international news | • local news |
| • national news | • TV listings |
| • home decoration tips | • recipes |
| • fashion | |