Newspapers

It is probably true to say that the majority of literate people around the world receive (1) ____________ from newspapers almost every day of their lives. As well as the hundreds of millions who buy a daily paper, there must be at least as many who get the chance to read a paper (2) ____________ by someone else, or who just glance at the headlines as they walk past a newspaper stand.

Of course there are many different (3) ____________ of newspaper, from those that only contain ‘serious’ news to those that fill their pages with scandals and gossip, often involving the personal (4) ____________ of celebrities. However, most of them contain some political and economic news, along with a section giving opinions on recent events. Of course, the (5) ____________ between fact and opinion is not always clear, as the choice of which stories to include and how to report them often reflects the (6) ____________ perspective of the newspaper in question.

Most historians agree that the first newspapers that looked similar to today’s versions (7) ____________ in Europe in the early 17th century. However not many people read them; the majority of the population was (8) ____________, and in any case the technology to print a large number of copies per day did not yet exist. One of the first papers to become available to a mass audience by using a printing machine capable of printing more than a thousand sheets of paper per hour, was Britain’s The Times in 1814.

In many countries there is a lot of (9) ____________ between different newspapers, and their editors constantly try to come up with new ideas that will increase their readership. One of the world’s biggest selling national newspapers is Yomiuri Shimbun in Japan, with a circulation of well over ten million copies a day. The most (10) ____________ daily newspaper in Europe is reported to be Bild in Germany, which sells almost four million copies a day.

With competition from the internet as well as from television and radio, some media experts say newspapers face a difficult future. It is certainly true that the circulation of many major national newspapers has been falling, and that there are now some newspapers that only (11) ____________ online.

There is no sign, however, that newspapers are going to disappear from our lives in the near future, and perhaps they never will. After all, reading a paper is a different physical experience from using a computer. Even if everyone were able to receive news from the internet, it is quite easy to imagine that many people would still prefer to have physical (12) ____________ with the printed page rather than look at a screen.
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Part A

Fill the twelve gaps in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the box below. There are four words that you will not need to use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>popular</th>
<th>illiterate</th>
<th>circulation</th>
<th>exist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>line</td>
<td>information</td>
<td>appeared</td>
<td>bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper</td>
<td>reading</td>
<td>contact</td>
<td>buy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>types</td>
<td>competition</td>
<td>lives</td>
<td>political</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part B

Below are eight quotes on the subject of newspapers. Can you work out what the missing words are?

1. ‘The man who reads n_________ a_ l is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.’ (Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, 3rd President of the United States)

2. ‘It’s amazing that the ______ t of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.’ (Jerry Seinfeld, American comedian)

3. ‘A_________ ts … contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper.’ (Thomas Jefferson)

4. ‘Jo_________ m largely consists of saying “Lord Jones is dead” to people who never knew that Lord Jones was alive.’ (G. K. Chesterton, 1874-1936, English writer)

5. ‘I would rather ex_________ than read a newspaper.’ (Kim Alexis, American model)

6. A good newspaper … is a nation t_________ g to itself. (Arthur Miller, 1915-2005, American playwright)

7. ‘Once a newspaper touches a story, the ______ s are lost forever…’ (Norman Mailer, 1923-2007, American writer)

8. ‘I think a newspaper should be p____ v____ t____.’ (Rupert Murdoch, Australian-American media executive and owner of many newspapers)