

e-lesson

Week starting: 19th November 2007

1. Newspapers

The subject of this week's lesson is newspapers. One of the first mass-produced newspapers was *The Times* in Britain, which dramatically increased its circulation after starting to use a steam-powered press on 29th November 1814.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask students what their favourite (and least favourite) newspapers are, and why. Do they think newspapers might eventually be replaced by news sources on the internet?
2. Divide students into pairs and give them 5-10 minutes to read the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them that in the next exercise they are going to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could suggest that they guess what the words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another five to ten minutes to fill the gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that (a) there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and (b) there are sixteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning four of the words should not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to try the second exercise on Worksheet B in which they have to complete the quotations on the subject of newspapers. You could make the exercise easier by revealing other missing letters in addition to those already provided.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Part A (gap-fill)

1. information 2. bought 3. types 4. lives 5. line 6. political 7. appeared
8. illiterate 9. competition 10. popular 11. exist 12. contact

(Words that should not be used: paper, reading, circulation, buy)

Part B (missing words)

1. nothing at all 2. amount 3. Advertisements 4. Journalism 5. exercise
6. talking 7. facts 8. provocative

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.thepaperboy.com>

Quick access to the online content of hundreds of newspapers around the world.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalism>

The *Wikipedia* entry for 'journalism'. Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click_online/6220424.stm

A BBC article (2006) on the competition newspapers are facing from online news sources.