

What's in the News?

Levels

Intermediate +

Aims

Practice reading
authentic texts from
newspapers

Class Time

50 minutes

Preparation Time

20 minutes

Resources

Short articles from
English-language
newspapers

Contributor

Recognizing the main idea and themes in newspaper articles helps readers process and retain information on current events. Reading authentic articles also gives learners appropriate background knowledge for related class projects.

Procedure

1. Ask each student to bring an article from an English language newspaper on a common topic (e.g., crime, pollution, accidents).
2. In class, put students in groups of three or four and have them retell their information, classifying it into specific categories (e.g., homicide, robbery, assault).
3. Next, have students walk around the room and find out who else has articles that match their own categories.
4. After groups with similar categories are formed, direct a whole-class discussion to make a list of all the categories on the board. Students can contribute additional information from their own experiences.
5. Post-reading activities requiring writing can be assigned, such as summaries, letters to government officials offering suggestions to deal with problems, and responses in journals.

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