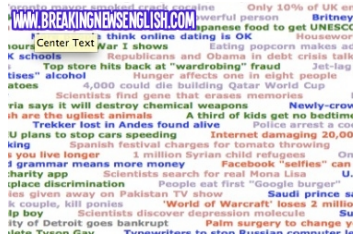


# Studying with news in English class is useful

24th December, 2013



New research from the BreakingNewsEnglish.com website suggests that news is good for students.

A researcher asked many teachers and

students in an online class their opinions on using the news to learn English. Almost everyone said it was very important. One student said he enjoyed studying using news because the story is real. He said he remembered many times when the teacher put a headline on the whiteboard and he was surprised that it was that day's breaking news. Another student said she thought news was a lot more interesting than other types of topics in her lessons. She said she felt good when she understood the news in English. She also learnt a lot of useful "international vocabulary".

Teachers were also enthusiastic about using news in the classroom. Many said students had problems with listening, so they made the recording slower to help their students. Teachers also liked news stories because they encouraged conversation. Many teachers said their students talked non-stop about news of their own country or city. Teachers also said news was useful because students already had a lot of background knowledge from listening to or reading about a news item in their own language. Teachers also liked the fact that they could do many kinds of activities, such as role plays, debates, surveys, quizzes and language games. One teacher said he thought listening to news was "unhealthy for students".

Source: Sean Banville

## Writing

Using news in English class is better than using course books. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

new research / online class / opinions / important / headline / breaking news / topics / enthusiastic / listening / conversation / talking non-stop / background knowledge

## True / False

- a) A team of researchers asked teachers and students about news. T / F
- b) Almost everyone said news was important to use when studying. T / F
- c) One student said his teacher put news headlines on the whiteboard.
- d) Another student said she preferred other topics to news.
- e) Teachers said students had few problems with listening to news.
- f) Teachers said students rarely spoke about news of their own country.
- g) Students' background knowledge of news helps them in English class.
- h) A teacher said listening to news was unhealthy for students.

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. suggests      | a. practical     |
| 2. opinions      | b. continuously  |
| 3. types         | c. global        |
| 4. useful        | d. keen          |
| 5. international | e. for example   |
| 6. enthusiastic  | f. shows         |
| 7. encouraged    | g. understanding |
| 8. non-stop      | h. views         |
| 9. knowledge     | i. helped        |
| 10. such as      | j. kinds         |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) How does news make you feel?
- b) What advice would you give to students who want to understand news in English?
- c) Do news stories encourage conversation more than other stories?
- d) Does background knowledge of a news story help with English news?
- e) Is local news better than international news?
- f) Where is best for getting news – TV, radio, the Internet or newspapers?
- g) Why might listening to news be "unhealthy for students"?
- h) What questions would you like to ask BreakingNewsEnglish.com?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. teachers and students in            | a. because the story is real  |
| 2. he enjoyed studying using news      | b. knowledge                  |
| 3. news was a lot more interesting     | c. "international vocabulary" |
| 4. she felt good when she              | d. non-stop about news        |
| 5. She also learnt a lot of useful     | e. than other types of topics |
| 6. Teachers were also enthusiastic     | f. an online class            |
| 7. they made the recording slower      | g. such as role plays         |
| 8. teachers said their students talked | h. about using news           |
| 9. background                          | i. understood the news        |
| 10. do many kinds of activities,       | j. to help their students     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of studying English through news stories?
- Is English news good for students of English?
- What are your favourite areas of the news?
- What stories are you following at the moment?
- What are the most difficult things about news in English?
- How do you feel when you understand news in English?
- Is news vocabulary different?
- How important is news?

## Spelling

- A aererechrs asked many teachers
- their spnooni on using the news
- he yejoend studying using news
- put a deeihaIn on the whiteboard
- news was a lot more tegiinetrns
- international crlyaabvou
- Teachers were also esisihtatcnu
- made the ndorgeic slower
- they encouraged osnavecroni
- background Idenewogk
- many kinds of itaicesivt
- eiszzuq and language games

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. b	9. g	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – International

You think international news is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): local news, environmental news or business news.

### Role B – Local

You think local news is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): international news, environmental news or business news.

### Role C – Environment

You think environmental news is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): local news, international news or business news.

### Role D – Business

You think business news is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their types of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): local news, environmental news or international news.

## Speaking – News stories

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best stories at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Sport            | • International politics |
| • Business         | • Fashion                |
| • Celebrity gossip | • Weather                |
| • Local news       | • Technology news        |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.