

EF Unit Specifications

CEFR Level: B2.1

Learning Focus: Reporting on news/events

Functions:

- Gather information for a news event
- Synthesize and evaluate news reports
- Report on the news
- Talk about media bias
- Separate fact from fiction
- Express certainty, probability, and doubt

Can Dos

- Oral production: Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on a wide range of subjects related to their field of interest, expanding and supporting ideas with subsidiary points and relevant examples.
- Oral interaction: Can participate actively in routine and non-routine formal discussion.
- Oral interaction: Can summarise and give their opinion about a short story, article, talk, discussion, interview or documentary and answer further questions of detail.
- Reading comprehension: Can recognise when a text provides factual information and when it seeks to convince readers of something.
- Reading comprehension: Can understand articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular stances or viewpoints.
- Reading comprehension: Can scan through straightforward, factual texts in magazines, brochures or on the web, identify what they are about and decide whether they contain information that might be of practical use.
- Listening comprehension: Can recognise the point of view expressed and distinguish this from facts being reporting.
- Listening comprehension: Can understand most documentaries and most other recorded or broadcast material delivered in the standard form of the language and can identify mood, attitude, etc.
- Listening comprehension: Can follow extended discourse and complex lines of argument, provided the topic is reasonably familiar, and the direction of the argument is signposted by explicit markers.
- Listening comprehension: Can understand the main points of radio news bulletins and simpler recorded material about familiar subjects delivered relatively slowly and clearly.

- Written production: Can summarise, report and give their opinion about accumulated factual information on familiar routine and non-routine matters within their field with some confidence.
- Audio-visual comprehension: Can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes.
- Audio-visual comprehension: Can extract the main points from the arguments and discussion in news and current affairs programmes.
- Sociolinguistic competence: Can express him/ herself confidently, clearly and politely in a formal or informal register, appropriate to the situation and person(s) concerned.
- Mediating concepts: Can, based on people's reactions, adjust the way he/she formulates questions and/or intervenes in a group interaction.

GRAMMAR:

INDUCTIVE + DEDUCTIVE

- Modals + Present perfect for speculation (e.g. subject + must have been/gone/done, might have been/gone/done, may have / could have / can't have)
- Present participle clauses (used to sound formal)
- Reduced relative clause

REVIEW

- Reported Speech + Passives (e.g. Past Perfect to report statements, where the main verb in the reporting clause is in the past simple.)
- Past Perfect Continuous

Lexis

Media: article, breaking news, bulletin, correspondent, exposé, eyewitness, feature, headline, interview, journalist, media, report, scandal, topic

Dangers/Issues: balance, bias, fake news, gossip, influence, opinion, trust

Phrasal verbs (Phrasal vocabulary): current event, just in, in-depth, up to date, well-balanced.
Phrasal verbs?

Verbs: announce, broadcast, leak, publish, publicise, report

Reporting verbs: admitted, announced, claimed, confirmed, reported, revealed, stated

go on the record, be off the record

Skills

Reading:

- Reading articles / reports
- Identifying genre and style
- Identifying formal register
- Identifying viewpoints / bias

Listening:

- Listening to radio/TV
- Inferring implicit meaning
- Listening to interviews

Writing:

- Writing scripts / news report - Formality
- Summarising

Speaking:

- Summarising
- Paraphrasing

Pronunciation:

- 'were' and 'was' strong and weak forms
- strong: /wɜːr/, /wɒz/
- weak: /wə/, /wəz/