

# Unit 6: News

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### The British Press

Historically rooted in **freedom of speech** that has been guaranteed since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the British **press** is one of the most **widely read** and most dynamic in the world. **Newspapers** are generally divided into 'quality' and 'tabloid' papers. The former **deals with issues in-depth** in a serious tone. They include *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*. The latter addresses the same **topics** in a more superficial, spectacular sometimes provocative way, and are keener on lighter topics, such as celebrities and sports. They include *The Sun* and *The Daily mirror*. To do the **headlines**, they sometimes **make up** stories. The **gutter press** (also called yellow press) covers sensational **events**. In some newspapers you can also find crossword, the weather forecast, a cartoon strip and reviews of films.



**Circulation** is among the highest in the world: the leading title, *The Sun*, sells more than 3 million **copies** and is read by almost 8 million people every day. Sunday papers are also very popular.

The reporter **works on** a newspaper. He writes articles and everything in the news. They should aim at **accuracy**. Then, the editor decides what goes on the **front page**.

Finally the newspaper is sold at the **newsagent's** or is thrown in front of your house by the **paperboy** (while the postman delivers letters and parcels).



### The American television

ABC, CBS and NBC are the three major television **networks** in America. They are not exactly **channels**, but rather central operators that provide programmes to thousands of local TV stations across the country, which are affiliated to them. These huge corporations started as radio networks in the 1920s before expanding to T.V. They rely on **commercials** for their funding. Through their programmes, they have contributed to shape American identity, but also modern culture around the world. The latest commercial network, FOX, was launched in 1986. PBS is a non profit TV service, funded by the federal government, which **broadcast** mainly educational programmes and is famous for children's shows. There are also hundreds of specialized pay channels on cables, such as HBO. If you don't like shows, documentaries or **soaps**, don't switch off the TV. Just take the **remote control** and change. There is always something **on**.

## 2. READING

This is in the frontpage of some famous newspaper. What sort of newspaper is it? What's the headline? What are the details? Is it a serious news? Should this story be public? How is private property invaded?



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**SUN EXCLUSIVE**

# HARRY FACES ETON DRUGS TEST

**TROUBLED Prince Harry is facing drugs tests at Eton after admitting he took pot.**

He has been allowed to stay at the school by head John Lewis.

But the teenager risks being **EXPELLED** if he fails a random urine check in future.

A source said last night: "Harry has had the yellow card. If he ever tests positive he'll be out."

The youngster told Prince Charles he smoked cannabis and had booze binges at Highgrove, Gloucs, and a nearby pub when he was 16.

Harry, now 17, also went drinking at a pub on New Year's Eve. Eton insiders said the Prince "can be a handful."

A source added: "People are genuinely concerned he may be going off the rails."

"He also has a habit of spitting in the street - quite distasteful."

The News of the World told yesterday how Charles responded to Harry's cannabis confession by ordering him to visit a rehab unit - to frighten him into turning his back on drugs.

And Eton has told him that even though he never smoked pot at the school, its anti-drug rule applies at home.

A senior source at the Berkshire college said: "The cannabis matter was brought to the attention of the head by Prince Charles."

"Obviously the Prince is extremely concerned about those who mix with his son in case any of them has been a bad influence on him."

### BORED

"The smoking of cannabis and the drinking of alcohol is widespread at Eton College and the headmaster operates a strong policy against it."

"But the difficulty is that you have a large number of boys with a huge weekly disposable income who get very bored and become easy prey for drug-dealers."

The source said Eton was "totally satisfied" with the way Prince Charles had handled Harry's drug use.

He went on: "It would seem the problem has been nipped in the bud."



Warned ... Harry arriving at Highgrove yesterday **Picture: DAVID BEBBER**

"However, the headmaster informed Charles his son could be made to take random urine samples in the future."

"The headmaster hates having to expel anybody - but he is very tough on drugs."

"All eyes at Eton will be on Harry to ensure he does not stray."

### ABUSE

Eton pupils are all given lectures about drugs by a counsellor.

They are warned how drugs affect the body and mind.

Staff are also trained to spot

signs of drug abuse in the boys.

Eton rules say: "The school prospectus is explicit about the headmaster's right to dismiss any boy involved with illicit drugs."

"The headmaster also has the power to treat as a breach of school discipline behaviour during the holidays which brings the school into disrepute."

Meanwhile, a pupil who was expelled for having cannabis said he once offered a joint to Harry's brother William.

He added: "William was not amused. He politely turned it down immediately."

What is the "yellow card"?  
Which bad habit did Harry have?  
Why are people concerned about him?  
How was William's reaction different?

How did Charles react after Harry's confession?  
What is the school policy on drugs?  
Why are these boys an easy prey for dealers?

### 3. VOCABULARY

**Find a precise word to complete the following sentences (See introduction)**

- a. .... are generally cheap popular newspapers.
- b. The Times ran a fantastic ..... about the discovery of gold.
- c. The Daily mail's ..... dropped by 20% over the last 6 months.
- d. He will ..... the event. He is responsible for the treatment of it.
- e. I like reading tabloids and gossip even if I know, journalists sometimes ..... stories to make it spectacular.
- f. This is the place where you can buy your newspaper or magazine: .....
- g. This newspaper is about politics and economy: .....
- h. A good journalist seeks for ..... information.
- i. The weather ..... is not good. It will rain all week long.
- j. In some countries, journalists don't have ..... so they can't write what they want to.
- k. Fox news is a famous network which ..... various programmes.
- l. The ..... publishes everything and anything just to make sensational stories.

**Give a synonym or a word that corresponds to the following definitions (See the text about Harry)**

To be authorized:

When you drink too much alcohol:

Worried:

To say more:

To give up:

The issue:

A plan of action:

Strict:

To be told the possible danger:

To refuse:

During this time:

The money you receive:

## 4. READING

Situation : you would like to apply for the job of photographer assistant and you have some preoccupations. Who are the paparazzi ? Where does this name come from ? Is it risky ? Is it a fair occupation ?

Task : read the article to find answers to your preoccupations.

# PAPARAZZI

The term 'paparazzi' comes from a character called Paparazzo in the Fellini film, *La Dolce Vita*, who rode around on a scooter taking photographs of the rich and famous. Modern day paparazzi take photographs of famous people, hoping to get them in an unflattering or compromising pose. The photograph is then sold for an enormous sum of money, sometimes close to a million dollars, to the tabloid press.

Some people say that celebrities are public property and that this invasion of privacy is to be expected – 'that's show business', they say. I think that this is true up to a point, but celebrities are being followed, harassed, chased, provoked and spied on in their own homes. That's not show business, that's criminal.

### *Unnecessary risks*

- Tom Cruise has been pursued at high speed through the tunnel in Paris where Princess Diana was killed.
- When Madonna was promoting *Evita* in Rome, she had to drive away at 130 kph with her baby in the car because she was being chased. The paparazzi didn't even give her time to strap the baby into the car.

### *Invasion of privacy*

- Alec Baldwin gave a paparazzo a black eye when he filmed him and his wife, Kim Basinger, returning to their Hollywood home with their new baby. Baldwin was arrested and charged with assault, but he was later acquitted.
- Cindy Crawford has been filmed in her bathroom from over a kilometre away with a huge telephoto lens.
- When Princess Diana's father died, a paparazzo was waiting outside her hotel – she tearfully begged him to leave her alone, but the pictures were printed in the national newspapers the next day.

### *Provocation*

The paparazzi go out of their way to make people angry so that they can get a better picture. The American actor George Clooney was walking down the street with his girlfriend when a paparazzo shouted, 'Who's the fat girl?' The picture of Clooney's angry face was splashed all over the newspapers the next day. However, the actor got his revenge on the paparazzi when one of the photographers was hiding in his garden to get pictures of him and his girlfriend at home – the photographer was chased away by Clooney's pet Vietnamese pot-bellied pig.

The paparazzi are out of control. Some papers have recognised what is happening and have refused to buy pictures when it's obvious that a person's privacy has been invaded. Other papers must follow their example.

**Look at these extracts from the text *Paparazzi*. What verb structure do the sentences use?**

1. Baldwin was arrested and charged with assault but was later acquitted.
2. Tom Cruise has been pursued.

## **5. Grammar - Passive voice**

On utilise la voix passive, quand le sujet subit l'action.

Exemples : → The house is visited by an old man.

→ The mouse is eaten by the cat

Elle est aussi utilisée pour remplacer le pronom impersonnel "on" (en particulier dans les news).

En anglais, la voix passive se construit avec ..... et le ..... du verbe conjugué. C'est « be » qui indique le ..... de la phrase.

**(make)**

**Au présent simple :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

This toy ..... by children in Asia.

**Au présent continu :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Au passé simple :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

This toy ..... by children in Asia.

**Au passé continu :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Au present perfect :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Au futur :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Pour exprimer une interdiction :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Pour exprimer un conseil :**

These toys ..... by children in Asia.

**Passive Voice: Exercises**

**1) Match the verb to tense and form**

|   |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| The man was killed                      | • | • | Pres perf - active        |
| Breakfast will be served at 6 a.m.      | • | • | Present perfect - passive |
| My computer is being repaired by Tim    | • | • | Future - active           |
| Dinner has been served                  | • | • | Past simple- passive      |
| Tea is drunk by a lot of British people | • | • | Present contin - passive  |
| I will go to Italy next year            | • | • | Future – passive          |
| The cat has never eaten a mouse         | • | • | Present simple - passive  |

**2) Conjugate with a passive form at the right tense**

- a. A new prime minister ..... (choose) next year.
- b. Penicillin ..... (discover) by Alexander Fleming.
- c. Hamlet ..... (write) by Shakespeare a long time ago.
- d. Where ..... these toys ..... (make)?
- e. It ..... (write) on them :”made in China”.
- f. This house ..... just ..... (build).

**3) Transform from active to passive**

- a. In 1066, William the Conqueror conquered England  
.....
- b. People spoke French at the court.  
.....
- c. We have invited Jenny.  
.....
- d. The children are cleaning the car.  
.....

4) **Complete these newspaper articles with the following verbs**

|         |      |          |      |      |             |
|---------|------|----------|------|------|-------------|
| Operate | Give | Organise | Give | Help | Find - Give |
|---------|------|----------|------|------|-------------|

# Heart man alive and kicking

Taxi-driver Phil Young is celebrating a very special anniversary today. It is exactly one year since he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at St Bartholomew's Hospital and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a new heart. Mr Young, 47, is now training to play in a charity football match which (6) \_\_\_\_\_ by the hospital to raise money for the transplant programme. So far 11 people (7) \_\_\_\_\_ new hearts by doctors at the hospital. 'I hope more

people (8) \_\_\_\_\_ as I was,' said Mr Young. 'And I hope I can score the winning goal in the match!'



William Murphy

## Million dollar reward

A winning lottery ticket worth \$7 million (1) was discovered in a wallet in the street last week in Montreal, Canada. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by unemployed builder William Murphy, who returned the ticket and the wallet to their owner, Jean-Paul Dupont. Yesterday Mr Murphy (3) \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.2 million as a reward for his honesty.

**5. Rewrite the sentences using a passive verb**

a. The paparazzi pursued the car for ten kilometres.

.....

b. The newspaper will pay her 50,000 \$ for the embarrassing pictures.

.....

c. Thieves stole a precious watch from a celebrity last night.

.....

d. Police have charged the footballer with assault.

.....

e. The editor has fired the journalist for inventing the story.

.....

f. Bodyguards are protecting this house from spying paparazzi.

.....

g. They can't splash her photo all over the frontpage.

.....

## 5) Conjugate

1. The breakfast ..... (serve) every day at 8 a.m. (present simple)
2. The bottle of water ..... (drink) by the children. (present simple)
3. My glasses ..... (repair) by the specialist. (present simple)
4. The match ..... (play) very well today. (present continuous)
5. The car ..... (wash) by the children. (future)
6. The passengers ..... (bring) their supper. (present perfect)
7. Paul and Sara ..... (punish) at the moment. (present continuous)
8. My umbrella ..... (destroy) because of the wind. (past simple)
9. These toys ..... in India . (make – present simple)
10. This house ..... by strong men. (build – present continuous)
11. This programme ..... by millions of people. (watch – present continuous)
12. French ..... in the court. (speak – present simple)
13. The car ..... by my parents. (clean – past continuous)
14. The luggage ..... until it exploded. (carry – past cont)
15. A monkey ..... for the show. (choose- future)
16. The man ..... when his friend saved him. (arrest – past continuous)
17. The noise ..... from here. (incapacité – hear)
18. Your homework ..... after school. (do – obligation)
19. The book ..... in Belgium. (incapacité – buy)
20. Alcohol ..... by teenagers. (drink – interdiction)
21. The photographer ..... (send) in Brazil to  
take pictures. (futur-intention)
22. If the paperboy doesn't deliver the newspaper, he .....  
(not-pay – futur simple)
23. The front page ..... (change – past simple) because a mistake  
..... (make – past perfect) in the headline.
24. The luggage ..... (check – present simple) all the time .



## 6. Listening : Paparazzi

Situation : en classe, nous avons discuté des news et des tabloïds. Nous avons évoqué les paparazzi et la vie des célébrités. Tu es bien placé(e) pour conseiller un ami qui voudrait participer à un concours pour devenir célèbre.

Tâche : écoute un homme et une dame qui discutent de la célébrité. Voudraient-ils être connu ? Quels avantages et inconvénients évoquent-ils dans leur conversation ? Prends note en français pour conseiller cet(te) ami(e).

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## 7. Translations

1. Les célébrités sont pourchassées et suivies par les paparazzis.

.....

2. Cindy Crawford a été espionnée dans sa maison l'année passée.

.....

3. Les photos seront prises et seront vendues.

.....

4. Le chanteur a déjà été arrêté.

.....

5. Regarde ! L'homme se fait suivre par la police.

.....

6. Les lettres seront envoyées demain matin.

.....

7. Souriez. Vous êtes en train d'être filmés.

.....

8. Les jouets de ta sœur sont fabriqués en Chine.

.....

9. S'il fume un joint, le prince sera viré de son école.

.....

10. Le problème a été tué dans l'œuf (pas de traduction littérale).

.....

11. Jusqu'à présent, onze personnes ont été opérées.

.....

12. Que faisais-tu quand ils ont été arrêtés ?

.....

13. Ce devoir ne peut pas être fait en classe.

.....

## 10 A newspaper story

- 1 Complete the newspaper story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use Present Perfect Simple or Continuous, and the Past Simple, the active or passive.

### The 22-year weekend break

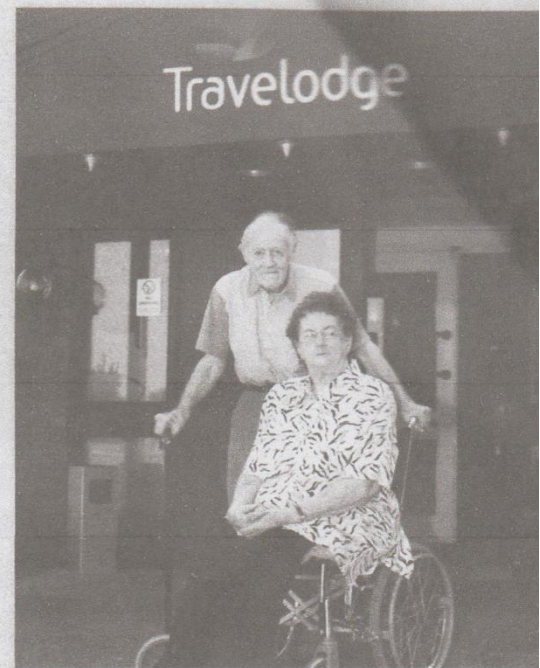
David Davidson, 79, and his wife, Jean, 70, (1) have been living (live) in Travelodge hotels for over 22 years. The couple (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) more than £100,000 staying at the hotels even though they own a flat in Sheffield. They say it is cheaper than living in their own home.

The couple's love of motel life began in the 1980s when they (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in a Travelodge on the A1 at Newark, Nottinghamshire, while visiting an elderly aunt. They enjoyed their stay so much that when the aunt (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (die) they decided to move in permanently. However, by 1997, they felt like a change so they moved to a newly-built Travelodge, only 15 minutes away, and still on the A1. They (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) there ever since. They return to their flat once a fortnight to pick up their post.

Mr Davidson, a retired banker, says "We have everything we need here and the staff are like family now." Mrs Davidson, who (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (suffer) from a bone disease for many years and now uses a wheelchair, said "Our room here is on the ground floor, so that's good for me and we (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) lots of framed photos with us so it feels like a home from home. Friends and family come to visit us here and we even get birthday and Christmas cards from the staff."

The couple, who (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (marry) since 1953 and have a son also called David, even use Travelodges when they go on holiday. "We (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (just return) from three weeks in Savannah, Georgia, USA and, although the American Travelodges aren't the same company, we still feel it is the only place to stay," said Mr Davidson.

Travelodge's director for the north of England, Paul Anstey, said: "We are delighted that the Davidsons (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) Travelodge their home. To recognize their loyalty, their room (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (name) 'The Davidsons' Suite' and a plaque (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (put up) in their honour in Reception."



"We just love hotel living."

- 2 Here are some answers to questions about the Davidsons. Write the questions.
- 1 How long have they been living in Travelodge Hotels 22 years.
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
£100,000.
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
In the 1980s.
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Because they felt like a change.
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Once every two weeks.
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
For many years. She now uses a wheelchair.
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Since 1953.
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
To recognize their loyalty.