

Upper-intermediate vocabulary exercise: Words used in news headlines

In this exercise you will practise using words that are often seen in news headlines in the UK.

Headlines in newspapers and online news articles often contain less common or unusual words. These words are used because they are short (to save space) or dramatic.

Examples of news headline words

act (to take action)

blaze (a large fire)

blow (a setback)

brink (on the edge)

bid (to attempt, an attempt)

flare (to begin with violence)

curb (to reduce, restrict)

mar (to spoil)

blast (to criticise)

Exercise instructions

Complete each headline by filling the gap with one of the following words (one word per gap, use each word once):

quiz halt flak flares drama foils backs cleared blaze bid poised

1. GERMAN CLIMBERS IN NEW EVEREST _____
meaning: *A group of German climbers are attempting to climb Everest.*
2. THREE DEAD IN HOTEL _____
meaning: *Three people have died in a hotel fire.*
3. PRESIDENT _____ SCHOOL REFORMS
meaning: *The President has expressed his support for school reforms.*
4. POLICEMAN _____ OF CORRUPTION CHARGES
meaning: *A police officer is found not guilty after a corruption accusation.*

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5. BRAVE PENSIONER _____ BURGLARS
meaning: *A pensioner has prevented thieves from stealing things from her home.*
6. MINISTER IN AIRPORT _____
meaning: *A minister was in a tense or dangerous situation at an airport.*
7. GOVERNMENT FACES _____ OVER NEW HOUSING POLICY
meaning: *The government is getting criticism over their policy on housing.*
8. VIOLENCE _____ IN FRENCH CAPITAL
meaning: *There has been violence in Paris.*
9. BMW TO _____ PRODUCTION OF MODEL B VEHICLES
meaning: *BMW have announced they will stop producing a certain car.*
10. POLICE _____ TRANSPORT MINISTER OVER PAYMENTS
meaning: *The police are questioning a politician.*
11. MARK ROBINSON _____ TO MAKE ENGLAND DEBUT
meaning: *Mark Robinson is about to play for England for the first time.*

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Key

1. GERMAN CLIMBERS IN NEW EVEREST BID
2. THREE DEAD IN HOTEL BLAZE
3. PRESIDENT BACKS SCHOOL REFORMS
4. POLICEMAN CLEARED OF CORRUPTION CHARGES
5. BRAVE PENSIONER FOILS BURGLARS
6. MINISTER IN AIRPORT DRAMA
7. GOVERNMENT FACES FLAK OVER NEW HOUSING POLICY
8. VIOLENCE FLARES IN FRENCH CAPITAL
9. BMW TO HALT PRODUCTION OF MODEL B VEHICLES
10. POLICE QUIZ TRANSPORT MINISTER OVER PAYMENTS
11. MARK ROBINSON POISED TO MAKE ENGLAND DEBUT

Online version of this exercise: <https://goo.gl/E7s7F3>

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